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A-League Round 26 Friday 29th March - Sunday 31st March 2013

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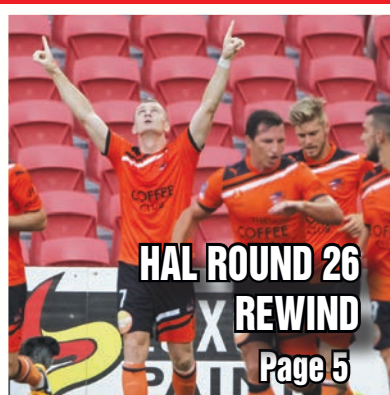
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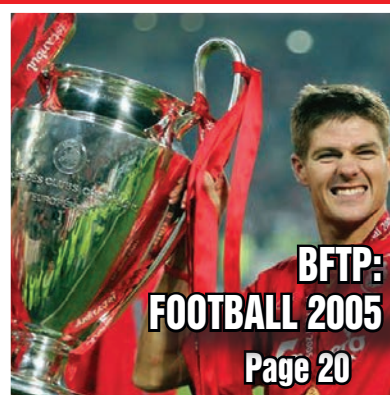
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THE ROAD TO RIO JUST GOT A LITTLE BIT BUMPIER...

# OH MAN!



PHOTO: PETER NEVILLE



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# Australia Salvage Point to keep Brazil Dream Alive

Australia



2

Oman



2

Match Details



Australia 2 (Cahill 51', Holman 85')

Oman 2 (Al Maqbali 6', Jedinak OG 49')

At ANZ Stadium

Crowd: 34,603

Referee: Ravshan Irmatov (Uzbekistan)

Local kick-off: 7:30pm AEDT

Man of the Match: Ali Al Habsi

a game more. Iraq and Jordan are also still both in the running on 5 and 4 points respectively in a group where the second automatic qualifying spot is sure to go right down to the final round of qualifiers.

Oman was compact in the early stages and repelled Australia's attacks before they flew up the field in clinical fashion. Amad Al Hosni and Ahmed Mubarak were involved in the neat interchange before the ball was flicked over the head of defender Michael Thwaite cleverly. Abdel Aziz Al Maqbali was clinical as Mark Schwarzer hesitated, nutmegging the keeper and finishing from the tightest of angles just outside the six yard box.

Australia were really struggling to penetrate the deep lying Omani defence and had to resort to some crosses from deep and long distance shooting. Jedinak hit a header wide and James Holland had a drive from distance smothered by the well organised and disciplined Omani defence.

The only thing that really had the crowd going was the Omani time-wasting and theatrics off the ball. As they went to half-time in the lead the crowd let out a chorus of boos and whistles. The Reds didn't care as they were on the verge of causing a monumental upset.

Their moods increased even further four minutes after the restart. Oman broke down the right edge and Raed Saleh drove in a low cross toward the Australian six yard box. The danger appeared minimal but Jedinak stuck out a boot anyway and could only divert the ball between Schwarzer and his near post.

One thing the Socceroos have always possessed is immense character and it was on display again by that man Tim Cahill two minutes later. Luke Wilkshire drilled in a corner that swung onto the head of Cahill and he did what he does time and again for Australia, nestling a header into the corner of Wigan Athletic goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi's net.

The goal changed the complexion of the match completely. Australia started to pepper the Omani goal and Cahill and Al Habsi begun a personal duel that seemed destined to decide the contest.

The Omani gloveman denied Cahill on no less than three occasions with crucial saves that helped maintain Oman's slender but increasingly fragile lead.

He was beaten in the 59th minute



Group B Standings									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
JAPAN	6	4	1	1	14	4	10	13	
JORDAN	6	2	1	3	6	12	-6	7	
AUSTRALIA	5	1	3	1	6	6	0	6	
IRAQ	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	5	
OMAN	6	1	3	2	6	9	-3	6	
Oman 0-0 Australia, Australia 1-1 Japan, Jordan 2-1 Australia, Iraq 1-2 Australia, Australia 2-2 Oman, Japan v Australia, Australia v Jordan, Australia v Iraq									

Brett Holman scored in the nick of time to save Socceroo blushes. Photo: ALI ERHAN



Weet-Bix kid Timmy Cahill heads home to trigger the come-back. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

by a long range Wilkshire drive that deflected off one of his defenders. Al Habsi could only watch on as the ball looped over his head, tickled the crossbar and then crashed into the post.

Just as it seemed like Oman would

escape with the points and an important victory, Aston Villa's forgotten man Brett Holman rescued the Socceroos in the 85th minute. Substitute Tommy Oar cut back a neat pass from the left touchline into the path of Holman. He had

one thing on his mind as he drilled a drive from 25 yards that swerved violently past Al Habsi and rescued the blushes of the home side. The pressure now ramps up a notch for the Socceroos as they next face Japan away on the 4th of June

before vital home matches against Jordan and Iraq. Oman finishes their campaign with matches against Iraq at home and Jordan away.

## Oh-man, now it's exciting

By Tom Chieftain

Four years ago, the first time through Asia, Australia qualified for the World Cup and it was a snooze. The opposition were in such fear that they meekly sat back, allowing coach Pim Verbeek to take few risks, preferring to rely on a banal strategy of using the inevitable opportunism of chances for the team to capitalise. The team rarely created their own chances by cutting down the opposition. While it wasn't pretty, it worked. It also had repercussions. A team without the hard graft that the move to Asia was supposed to create was readily exposed at the World Cup.

In 2012, Australia is not having it as easy, and blindly fans and commentators alike work themselves into a lather about "performance" and decrees of "we must win" and "if we can't beat Oman we don't deserve to be in the World Cup", and predicting 3-0 victories. Even coach Holger Osieck said in the lead-up that this match against Oman was a final. One look at the points table would have seen that an utter nonsense. Presuming Japan beat Jordan in the other match, a draw against Oman would not change a thing. Post-match, upon seeing the points table, Osieck even made this salient point.

As a nation, Australians can be so precious, bordering on conceited. This translates into a culture of bullying opposition and expecting automatic success. First it was just long-established surly cricket team, then swimming and other Olympians, and now it's bleeding into our once humble football team. Australia wanted out of Oceania for some "competition" and "insurance" in Asia. It comes, and we still complain. For some reason Australia must be playing a fluid passing game of 98% completion, win at least 2-0 and deny the opposition a shot on goal. That's not football. Not even in a videogame.

It's time to get real and stop whingeing when the vagaries that we appreciate so much about the sport actually dish up one of those vagaries in our faces. Oman scored fairly and nicely after six minutes, and suddenly something is really wrong. No it isn't. That's the sport. Just as one of its priceless vagaries dished up the delicious equaliser by the consistently error-prone Brett Holman. While we should be regaling in the team's ability to rescue a perilous situation and salivating at the moderate challenge ahead, we just whinge.

Yes, a moderate challenge it still is for Australia. Even with Jordan later beating Japan in the other match, they are

1 point above Australia, Australia have a game in hand of their nearest opponents, two of those games at home, one against Jordan in Melbourne. Don't fret or whinge. Enjoy.

The match itself proved the most exciting of the campaign, thanks to the vagaries of the sport. Conceding a goal so early would knock most teams off their game. While Australia did look lacklustre at times, generally they kept it relatively tidy, created chances, and all being mindful of the danger of conceding another goal. When the unlucky own-goal was conceded at the start of the second half to make it 2-0, tremendous resilience was shown to save the game. First Tim Cahill with a trademark and timely header from a corner to quickly make it 2-1, and then Holman's 85th minute long strike through a box so crowded that it might have temporarily blinded Oman's goal-keeper from making an early lunge. The players just didn't give up - as is also a consistent Australian trait. It's when as favourites that things go awry. The warm and humid conditions also made it tough for several of the players coming from the cold northern winter, further validating the effort.

Even Osieck seemed affected mentally by the conditions, substituting Robbie

Kruse early, when Kruse was the team's most dangerous player, and currently playing the team's highest level club football. Also puzzling is Osieck's persistence with Cahill as striker when logic suggests Kruse should be there with Cahill in his customary deeper, lurking mid-field role. Not only is Cahill's strike-rate far diminished up front, it propels the team into the lower percentage and annoying early long ball game. With Australia stuttering in midfield, an idea instead of substituting Kruse would be to push him forward, drop Cahill to midfield then substitute Alex Brosque for Archie Thompson.

Again, Australians under-estimate the toughness and pressure of World Cup qualifiers. Maybe the time in Oceania insulated the public from seeing this through the haze and nerves of the "Cup final" play-offs that Australia had to endure. Or more likely, with the the success in 2006 and the ease of qualifying in 2010, fans are looking too far ahead and treating the qualifiers as an indication to potential performance at the finals themselves. That is wrong. We are not that country yet and need to take a step back to tough and uncompromising reality that is to just qualify for the World Cup. It's nothing short than we asked upon entering Asia. Maybe, with the team in a transitional phase and the younger players failing to step up and fill the void, it's happening sooner than we like. That's just another of those vagaries of football.



Omani keeper Al Habsi had a busy night with the gloves. Photo: ALI ERHAN



# Young Socceroos in Group C of U-20 World Cup Turkey 2013

The Qantas Young Socceroos have been drawn in Group C, alongside El Salvador, Colombia and host nation Turkey for the FIFA U-20 World Cup which will be played from 21 June and 13 July 2013.

The draw was made on Tuesday at the Grand Tarabya Hotel in Istanbul by FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke along with Turkish Football legends, Fatih Terim, Mustafa Denizli, Hakan Sukur and Rustu Recber.

Qantas Young Socceroos Head Coach Paul Okon, who was in Turkey for the draw, is looking forward to the challenge that lies ahead for his team.

“All the groups at the FIFA U-20 World Cup will be tough. Every game will be a final and we look forward to representing Australia and showcasing Australia as a serious football country,” said Okon. “We are confident that we can rise to this wonderful occasion. “Playing in a World Cup is a huge



challenge but none more so than playing in a group that has the host nation.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for our players to play against the world’s best players,” concluded Okon.

The 19th edition of this FIFA youth

football tournament will see 24 nations play a total of 52 matches in the seven host cities of Antalya, Bursa, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Kayseri, Rize and Trabzon.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will play their first match of the tournament against Colombia on 22 June,

and then face El Salvador on 25 June before their final group match against Turkey on 28 June with all three matches to be played in the Black Sea coastal cities of Trabzon (Colombia & Turkey) and Rize (El Salvador).

The opening match of the tournament will see Cuba play the Korea Republic on Friday 21 June in Kayseri.

The Qantas Young Socceroos qualified for the FIFA U-20 World Cup having made the semi-finals of the AFC U19 Youth Championships in the UAE last year.

All Qantas Young Socceroos matches at the FIFA U-20 World Cup Turkey 2013 will be broadcast live & exclusive on SBS TV.

*For the definition of the three positions called CAF, a separate draw will take place at the conclusion of the CAF African Youth Championship on 30 March in Oran, Algeria, to determine which group the 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams from CAF will play in.*

FIFA U-20 World Cup 2013 group stage draw:

**GROUP A** (Istanbul, Kayseri): France, CAF, USA, Spain.

**GROUP B** (Kayseri, Istanbul): Cuba, Korea Republic, CAF, Portugal

**GROUP C** (Trabzon, Rize, Gaziantep): Turkey, El Salvador, Colombia, Australia

**GROUP D** (Gaziantep, Trabzon): Mexico, Greece, Paraguay, CAF

**GROUP E** (Antalya, Bursa): Chile, CAF Champions, England, Iraq

**GROUP F** (Bursa, Antalya): OFC Champions, Uzbekistan, Uruguay, Croatia



## SHORT PASSES

The World Game launches

A-League finals specials

SBS's flagship football program, The World Game, will host a series of A-League finals specials in a brand new 6:30pm time slot on SBS 2 from Monday 1 April.

The World Game: A-League Finals Special will cover all the latest news, results and action from the A-League finals with highlights, analysis, previews of the weekend's finals and special guests. Host David Zdrilic will be joined by Craig Foster and A-League coaches and players each week to discuss all the excitement and drama of the A-League finals series.

“The A League will under pin our strategic commitment to football come this October and these changes are just the first steps in that journey,” said Ken Shipp, Head of Sport SBS. “This is a great opportunity to refresh our brand and continue to grow our reputation as Australia’s leading football destination as we prepare to launch an exciting new football programming schedule later this year.”

SBS will also air The World Game: Global Edition at 11:30pm on SBS ONE. Hosted by Les Murray and David Basheer, it will feature the latest global football news and results from the UEFA Champions League and English Premier League as the seasons head towards a dramatic climax.

# ASIAN CUP 2015 VENUES AND MATCH SCHEDULE UNVEILED

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015 Local Organising Committee (LOC) unveiled the match schedule and host venues for the 2015 competition.

The competition will kick off in Melbourne on January 9, 2015 with an opening ceremony and Socceroos match at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium and will culminate in the Final at Sydney’s Stadium Australia on January 31, 2015.

The other three competition venues are Brisbane Stadium at Milton, Canberra Stadium in the ACT and Newcastle Stadium in NSW.

LOC Chief Executive Officer Michael Brown said today’s announcements marked a significant milestone in the planning of AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015.

“The Asian Cup in Australia will be a three week, 32 match festival of football culminating in the Final at Stadium Australia on January 31,” Mr Brown said.

“We are pleased to have now locked in five top class venues for the competition and finalised the match schedule.

“This will allow the detailed planning for the event to progress on schedule to ensure Asian Cup Australia 2015 is a world-class event and maintains Australia’s international

reputation as a great host for the world’s best sporting contests.” Mr Brown said the Socceroos qualifying games would be played in Melbourne on January 9, 2015; Sydney on January 13, 2015; and Brisbane on January 17, 2015.

“The four Quarter Finals will be played on January 22 and 23, 2015 and we are very excited that on Australia Day 2015 the first Semi Final will be played at Stadium Australia.

“The second Semi Final will be played in Newcastle on January 27, 2015 and the city will also host the 3rd v 4th play-off on January 30, 2015.”

AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015 is being jointly-funded by the Australian Government and the Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victorian Governments.

Federal Minister for Sport Kate Lundy said the Gillard Government was working in partnership with the Local Organising Committee as Australia prepares to host the Asian Cup – the region’s premier sporting event.

“The Asian Cup offers a unique opportunity to showcase Australia as a world-class host for major sporting events and as an attractive tourist destination,” Ms Lundy said.

“The spin-off from the Cup will be enormous for Australia with a global TV audience of more than 2.5 billion people expected and an estimated 45,000 international visitors set to

visit our shores.” NSW Minister for Sport Graham Annesley welcomed the announcement that Sydney and Newcastle would host a key Semi Final and Final match.

“The staging of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup in Australia is just reward for the growth of football in this country,” Mr Annesley said.

“Successful FIFA World Cup campaigns have positioned Australia on the world football stage, and I’m confident both Stadium Australia and Newcastle Stadium will ensure fans experience and enjoy these world class facilities during the Asian Cup.”

Victorian Minister for Sport Hugh Delahunty said: “I am delighted the event’s Opening Ceremony and Opening Match featuring the Socceroos will be held at Melbourne Rectangular Stadium in Melbourne on 9 January 2015.

“Melbourne Rectangular Stadium is a world class, award winning, purpose-built stadium with fantastic turf that the players will love and where the fans can get up close to the action.

“I look forward to welcoming visitors to Melbourne and Victoria for this highly anticipated event.”

Queensland Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Jann Stuckey, said Queenslanders were looking forward to the benefits and exposure the tournament would bring to

the state.

“An event the size of the Asian Cup has a tremendous impact, and I know that Brisbane 2015 will be memorable for spectators and competitors alike,” Ms Stuckey said.

“The number of Asian tourists visiting Queensland has increased markedly during recent years, and the event will provide an opportunity to build on that by showcasing what our wonderful state has to offer.”

ACT Minister for Sport Andrew Barr said the ACT Government was proud to be working with Victoria, Queensland, NSW, the Federal Government and the AFC Asian Cup 2015 Local Organising Committee to host this exciting event and showcase Australia to Asia and the world.

“I’m delighted that football fans in Canberra and the capital region will have the chance to see some of the world’s best players and international teams in action.

“Canberra Stadium has a proven track record of hosting high-quality fixtures, including Olympic football, Rugby World Cup and Rugby League World Cup matches. Likewise Canberra will be a great venue for travelling fans, who will have the chance to see the unique attractions of the nation’s capital.”



## The Stadiums

### Stadium Australia

Capacity: 84,000  
Scheduling: 7 matches, including a Socceroos game, a Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final

### Melbourne Rectangular Stadium

Capacity: 30,000  
Scheduling: 7 matches, including the Opening Ceremony and Socceroos Game and a Quarter Final

### Brisbane Stadium

Capacity: 52,500  
Scheduling: 7 matches, including a Socceroos qualifier and a Quarter Final

### Canberra Stadium

Capacity: 25,000  
Scheduling: 7 matches, including a Quarter Final

### Newcastle Stadium

Capacity: 33,000  
Scheduling: 4 matches, including a Semi Final and 3rd v 4th play-off

### Tournament starts

Friday, 9 January 2015  
Melbourne

### Final

Saturday, 31 January 2015  
Sydney

## SHORT PASSES

Football Federation Australia (FFA) announced that the presentation of the Hyundai A-League 2012/13 season Premiers Plate will be made at the winning club’s home venue.

Heading into the final round of the regular season this weekend, two clubs - the Western Sydney Wanderers (54 points) and the Central Coast Mariners (51 points) - remain in the hunt for 1st place and the Premiers Plate.

The decision means the Western Sydney Wanderers, if they were to finish in top spot, would receive the Premiers Plate in Week Two of the Hyundai A-League Finals Series (12 or 14 April in Sydney).

If the Central Coast Mariners were to finish first, the club would receive the Premiers Plate this Saturday night at Bluetongue Stadium following the match against Melbourne Heart.

## Bozanic Inks New Deal

OLIVER Bozanic has inked a one-season contract extension with the Central Coast Mariners, ensuring he remains with Graham Arnold’s men until the completion of the 2013/14 Hyundai A-League campaign.

Born in Sydney but raised on the Central Coast, Bozanic has spent the last three seasons with the Mariners after he took the opportunity to return from England’s Reading FC in search of regular first team football.

The move has paid dividends for the versatile midfielder gun, with the former Qantas Australian U23 skipper having played an impressive 77 times

in all competitions since his return in mid-2010.

Bozanic also made two appearances for the yellow and navy in the 2006 Pre-Season Cup competition before making the switch to the United Kingdom with ‘The Royals’.

Bozanic said he is delighted to have confirmed his place on the Mariners’ roster for season nine of Australia’s top flight.

“I am happy to be involved with the Club for another season,” he said.

“It’s my local town and I love the Central Coast and I love being part of this team.”

## Mariners confirm recapitalisation

THE majority owners of the Central Coast Mariners FC have confirmed that agreement has been reached on a recapitalisation of the club.

Discussions involving Mike Charlesworth, Peter Turnbull and Lyall Gorman concluded late today with agreement in principal reached. Documentation of the agreement is underway.

The agreement will see Mike Charlesworth, an existing major investor, make a substantial fresh investment into the Mariners.

The injection of funds will allow the immediate payment of players, coaches and staff. In addition, the funds will allow the Mariners to implement business plans to continue the growth of the club.

Mariners Chairman Peter Turnbull has welcomed today’s agreement and thanked his fellow investors for working towards a sustainable future.

“Mike, Lyall and I have always placed top priority on the good of the Mariners and Central Coast football,” said Turnbull.

“The club is an integral part of the Central Coast region and we

are determined to build a strong and stable club.

“In particular, I pay tribute to Lyall for his achievements in establishing the club. This agreement will see Lyall sever his formal ties with the Mariners, but he’ll always have a special place in the club.”

Turnbull has hailed the new investment by Mike Charlesworth as a turning point.

“Mike is a football man, like the rest of us, and he has a great passion for the game and the Mariners. Today’s agreement means the Mariners legacy will only get stronger.”

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR



## SCOREBOARD

## TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 West Sydney Wanderers	26	17	3	6	38	21	17	54
2 Central Coast Mariners	26	15	6	5	46	21	25	51
3 Melbourne Victory	26	12	5	9	45	43	2	41
4 Adelaide United	26	12	4	10	37	36	1	40
5 Brisbane Roar	26	9	5	12	30	28	2	32
6 Sydney FC	26	9	5	12	40	48	-8	32
7 Perth Glory FC	26	9	4	13	28	30	-2	31
8 Newcastle Jets FC	26	8	7	11	30	42	-12	31
9 Melbourne Heart FC	26	8	3	15	30	38	-8	27
10 Wellington Phoenix	26	7	6	13	29	46	-17	27

THIS  
WEEK

ROUND 27  
Thu Mar 28  
Fri Mar 29  
Sat Mar 30  
Sat Mar 30  
Sun Mar 31

## FINAL ROUND FIXTURE

Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC  
Newcastle Jets v West Sydney Wanderers  
Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart  
Perth Glory v Adelaide United  
Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Victory

## VENUE

Suncorp Stadium  
Hunter Stadium  
Bluetongue Stadium  
nib Stadium  
Westpac Stadium

## LOCAL

7:00pm  
5:30pm  
5:30pm  
6:45pm  
4:30pm

## AEDT

8:00pm  
5:30pm  
5:30pm  
9:45pm  
2:30pm

NEXT  
WEEK

## HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE 2013 FINALS SERIES - WEEK ONE

Friday 5 April 2013

Melbourne Victory v TBC

Etihad Stadium, Melbourne Kick off 7.30pm (local)

Sunday 7 April 2013

Adelaide Utd v TBC

Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide Kick off 4.30pm (local)

## ROUND 26 RESULTS

## Melbourne Victory 2

(Leijer 13, Cristaldo 89)

## Perth Glory 3 (Harold 21, Dodd

38, Risdon 90+4)

Crowd: 16,839 @ AAMI Park, Melbourne

## Adelaide United 0

## Central Coast Mariners 2

(McBreen 3, Sterjovski 90)

Crowd: 8069 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

## Brisbane Roar 2 (Besart Berisha 12, Thomas Broich 31)

## Melbourne Heart 0

## Western Sydney Wanderers 1

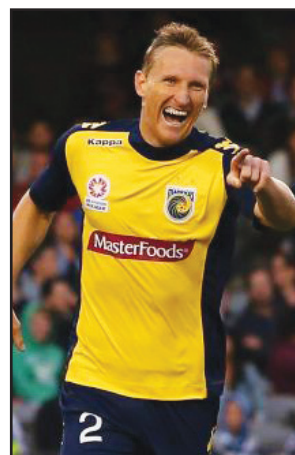
(Cole 69)

## Sydney FC 1 (Del Piero 34)

Crowd: 19,585 @ Parramatta Stadium

## TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 16 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)
- 15 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)
- 14 - Marco ROJAS (Victory)
- 13 - Besart BERISHA (Roar)
- Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
- 9 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)
- Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
- Mark BRIDGE (Wanderers)
- Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide)
- 8 - Mark MILLIGAN (Victory)



A return to the scoresheet with a goal against Adelaide Utd sees Mariner Daniel McBreen take the outright lead just in time for a last round dig at the Golden Boot.

## A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 26

Compiled by  
Steven Talevski

**GK: Ivan Necevski** – After receiving a place in the starting eleven last week due to Vedran Janjetovic arriving late to the ground, Necevski retained his spot this week and showed faith in Frank Farina's decision, making a number of telling saves and only being beaten by a well taken Shannon Cole free kick.

**RB: Josh Risdon** – One of the many men that has stepped up for the Glory in recent weeks, Risdon made the most impact on the field this weekend by scoring a late winner against the victory to keep Perth's finals chances in their own hands.

**CB: Zac Anderson** – Not a regular at the start of the season, Anderson has made the position his own in recent weeks as he had another terrific game in defence for the Mariners.

**CB: Tiago Calvano** – The Brazilian hasn't had the best of seasons to date but was a major reason why Sydney FC defended their local rivals attack well as they picked up a point in the derby.

**LB: Rhyan Grant** – One of two Sydney defenders in Goal! Weekly's team of the week, Grant showed why he has become one of Sydney's most consistent players this weekend with a solid performance in the game of the round.

**RCM: Liam Miller** – The experienced central midfielder was back to his best on the weekend as he helped lead a Perth Glory side to a surprising 3-2 victory away to Melbourne Victory.

**CM: John Hutchinson** – The Maltese international was in fine form marshalling the Mariners midfield as they defeated Adelaide United two nil to keep their minor premiership chances alive.

**RCM: Thomas Broich** – It has been a difficult season for the Roar midfielder, but everything came together on the weekend as his side picked up the three points with the help of his stunning strike.

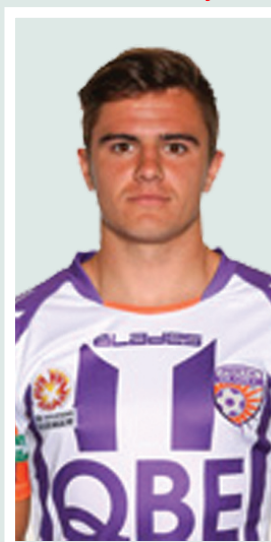
**RF: Chris Harold** – The Perth youngster had one of his best performances of the season as he helped the Glory defeat the Victory with the aid of his stunning opener.

**ST: Daniel Mc Breen** – Within three minutes of kick off, Mc Breen was once again atop of the A-League golden boot race after finishing off a great Oliver Bozanic assist.

**LF: Iain Ramsey** – Despite his side going down two nil to the Mariners, Ramsey was a clear standout in the game, acting as a major threat in Adelaide's attack and found himself unlucky to be on the score sheet due to the woodwork.

**Coach: Mike Mulvey** – The back to back defending champions kept their final chances alive this week with a solid two nil victory. The win did not only put the Roar into the top six but also ended the Hearts finals chances. With his team being disappointing earlier in the season, Mulvey has turned them around and now seems to be marching into the finals with only a Alessandro Del Piero led Sydney FC in the way.

## Star Man

Josh Risdon  
Perth Glory

Once again this season, a defender has claimed Goal! Weekly's star man award. Risdon's willingness to attack from defence was evident this week as he was a major threat in Perth's attack. His efforts culminated in the dying minutes of injury time when he struck home a stunning goal to allow Perth to be within a win from finals football once again.

Thank God It's Friday... **GW is available at all good newsagents every Friday**

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Weekly

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## Melbourne Victory



2

## Perth Glory



3

## Match Details

**Melbourne Victory 2** (Leijer 13, Cristaldo 89)  
**Perth Glory 3** (Harold 21, Dodd 38, Risdon 90+4)

Crowd: 16,839 @ AAMI Park, Melbourne

**Melbourne Victory:** 39. Nathan Coe, 6. Leigh Broxham, 9. Marcos Flores (27. Christopher Cristaldo 58'), 14. Billy Celeski, 22. Jesse Makarounas (21. Spase Dilevski 45'), 23. Adrian Leijer, 26. Andrew Nabbout, 31. Scott Galloway, 32. Connor Pain, 33. Daniel Mullen, 34. Dylan Murnane (30. Jason Geria 75').

Unused Subs: 1. Tando Velaphi  
Goals: Leijer 13', Cristaldo 89'  
Yellow Cards: Broxham 26', Geria 77'

**Perth Glory:** 1. Danny Vukovic, 5. Steve Pantelidis, 8. Dean Heffernan, 10. Liam Miller, 12. Ryo Nagai (11. Adrian Zahra 71'), 13. Travis Dodd (6. Nick Ward 81'), 14. Steven McGarry, 17. Chris Harold, 18. Matias Cordoba, 19. Joshua Risdon, 21. Scott Jamieson

Unused Subs: 2. Jack Clisby, 30. Lewis Italiano  
Goals: Harold 21', Dodd 38', Risdon 90+4'  
Yellow Cards: Miller 66', McGarry 90+1', Vukovic 90+3'

# Glory keep finals hopes alive with victory

By Daniel Quinn

The Perth Glory have boosted their finals chances with a late, late winner in Melbourne over the Victory.

The Victory were without Mark Milligan, Archie Thompson and Marco Rojas, who were all on international duty, and they were certainly missed by the hosts.

Despite the returning captain Adrian Leijer giving the Victory the lead, the Glory fought back and leveled through Chris Harold, before Travis Dodd gave the visitors the lead before the break.

Substitute Chris Cristaldo thought he grabbed a point for the Victory with his first A-League goal on 89 minutes, however Josh Risdon in the fourth minute of stoppage-time curled the winner into the net to send the Perth continent into euphoria.

With the win the Glory jump into fifth for the time being leapfrogging Brisbane, Newcastle and Sydney. Meanwhile the Victory stay in third only one point ahead of Adelaide who play on Sunday.

The Glory started well and controlled possession, but it was the Victory who took the lead on just 13 minutes.

Former Perth attacker Jesse Makarounas swung an inch-perfect corner onto the head of Leijer and the captain made no mistake powering the opener past a stranded Danny Vukovic.

But Perth were up for the challenge and took just five minutes to find an equaliser and in stunning fashion.

Liam Miller, who was in man of the match form, picked out Harold in the box and the former Gold Coast forward put his



Chris Harold draws first blood and Perth Glory are on their way to a profitable afternoon in Melbourne.

Photo: ANITA MILAS

hand up for goal of the week with a spectacular, acrobatic volley that clipped the inside of the post.

After leveling the game the visitors were the superior side as they controlled the possession, and Miller almost gave the Glory the lead on 35 minutes, but the ex-Celtic midfielder's effort curled inches wide.

But Glory coach Alistair Edwards only had to wait three minutes to celebrate the leading goal as Miller and Ryo Nagai combined well down the left, before the Japanese winger's low cross was terrifically fin-

ished into the roof of the net by Dodd from six yards out.

It was obvious that the Victory were missing Milligan, Thompson and Rojas and because Milligan wasn't involved and with Makarounas and Flores leading the line, there was plenty of space for Miller to control proceedings in what was probably his best game all season.

However Makarounas and Flores were forced off with injuries with Spase Dilevski and Chris Cristaldo making their way on.

After those two changes both sides were sparked into flurry

of chances, however the two goalkeepers, Nathan Coe and Vukovic were up to the task.

Connor Pain thought he leveled the game up for the hosts, but Vukovic plucked Pain's curling effort out of the sky and palmed it over the bar.

And from the resulting corner Vukovic's right hand kept Leijer out from doubling his personal tally of the evening.

Harold then was given the chance to finish off the hosts, but Coe charged down the forward's strike to keep the deficit to one.

The Glory thought they had

the points wrapped up, but Cristaldo, in just his second A-League appearance turned Pain's cross in off the bar from a couple yards out.

With the Victory pushing in stoppage-time Nick Ward teed up Risdon on the counter attack and the fullback exceptionally found the top corner with a swerving left-footed strike to jump the visitors into the top five.

## Man of the Match

Liam Miller  
(Perth Glory)



Christopher Cristaldo puts the Victory back on level terms in a drama filled finish to the contest. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Perth Glory's Steven McGarry and Melbourne Victory captain Adrian Leijer square up. Photo: ANITA MILAS

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West Sydney

1

Sydney FC

1

Match Details

Western Sydney Wanderers 1  
(Cole 69)  
Sydney FC 1 (Del Piero 34)

Crowd: 19,585  
Venue: Parramatta Stadium

**Wanderers:** 1.Ante Covic, 2.Shannon Cole, 3.Adam D'Apuzzo (11.tarek Elrich 45'), 4.Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 8.Mateo Poljak, 9.Dino Kresinger, 14.Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (16.Rocky Visconte 75'), 18.Iacopo La Rocca, 19.Mark Bridge, 21.Shinji Ono (7.Labinot Halioti 54').

Yellow Cards: Cole, Topor-Stanley, Appiah-Kubi.  
Red Cards: La Rocca

**Sydney FC:** 1.Ivan Necevski, 2.Sebastian Ryall, 7.Brett Emerton, 10.Alessandro Del Piero, 13.Tiago Calvano, 17.Terry Antonis, 22.Ali Abbas (21.Yairo Yau 76'), 23.Rhyan Grant, 26.Peter Triantis, 29.Joel Griffiths (16.Joel Chianese 64'), 32.Lucas Neil (8.Adam Griffiths 45').

Yellow Cards: Grant, Triantis, J.Griffiths, A.Griffiths  
Red Cards: Emerton

# Sydney FC snap Wanderers' winning run

By FFA

The Western Sydney Wanderers will have to wait a little longer to get their hands on the Premiers' Plate after playing out a 1-1 draw with Sydney FC at Parramatta Stadium on Saturday night.

In a pulsating derby played in front of almost 20,000 fans, both sides finished with 10-men after straight red cards to Sydney skipper Brett Emerton and Wanderers defender Iacopo La Rocca.

The Sky Blues looked on course for a huge upset when another expert finish from Alessandro Del Piero gave the visitors a 1-0 lead at the break.

But the contest took a turn towards the Wanderers 10 minutes after the re-start when Emerton was shown a straight red for a lunging tackle on Shannon Cole.

And the home side made their numerical advantage count, with Shannon Cole coming back to haunt his former club with a stunning free-kick to share the spoils.

The result not only snaps the Wanderers' wonderful 10-game winning streak but also means their minor premiership celebrations have to be put on hold.

Tony Popovic's side are still in the box seat to claim the silverware and will secure it with a draw in their final game against Newcastle next weekend or if Central Coast fail to beat Adelaide on Sunday.

A draw for Sydney keeps them in fifth position but their finals fate will be sealed in a do-or-die clash away to Brisbane Roar on Thursday night.

The Wanderers night was soured at the death when La Rocca was dismissed for an elbow to the head of Terry Antonis

Western Sydney lost skipper Michael Beauchamp before kick-off with a quad strain and then

Match Stats		
4	Saves	7
10	Attempts on target	6
14	Attempts off target	5
58%	Possession	42%
7	Corners	5
1	Offsides	1
15	Fouls committed	17



Italian superstar Alessandro Del Piero is no stranger to big matches and show his composure in front of goal to put the visitors in the lead with a well taken goal. Photo: ALI ERHAN

not surprisingly it was a cautious and nervy start to the match from both sides.

It took almost 20 minutes for the shot on target, with Del Piero testing out Ante Covic with a free-kick which the keeper could only parry over the bar.

The Italian's next contribution 11 minutes before the break was more clinical.

But he owed a lot to the normally water-tight Wanderers defence, with stand-in skipper Nikolai Topor-Stanley's misplaced pass deep in his own half gifting Del

Piero possession.

The former Juventus star shim-mied past La Rocca before beating Covic with a low, left-foot drive to the far post.

It was Del Piero's 13th goal of the season and sent the small but vocal band of Sky Blues supporters into raptures.

The home side had two chances to equalise before the break but on both occasions Sydney goal-keeper Ivan Necevski denied Mark Bridge was excellent saves.

Lucas Neill didn't return after

half-time due to injury and he was soon joined in the sheds by Emerton.

The Australian midfielder mistimed his challenge on Cole, with referee Kris Griffiths-Jones ruling his lunging challenge was worthy of a straight red.

The Wanderers began to take control of the match now and hit back 21 minutes from time through a stunning strike from former Sydney defender Cole.

After Dino Kresinger won a free kick just outside the box, Cole stepped and sent a curling right-

foot shot around the wall and past a despairing Necevski into the corner of the net.

The home side pushed forward for a winner with Kresinger and Labinot Halioti both going close but the Sky Blues also could have pinched it at the death as Joel Chianese's goal-bound shot was blocked on the line and cleared to safety.

**Man of the Match**  
Ivan Necevski  
(Sydney FC)



Shannon Cole's free-kick somehow eludes SFC kepper Ivan Necevski. Photo: ALI ERHAN



After an early set-back the Wanderers are back in the match and looking good for debut season hours again. Photo: ALI ERHAN



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## Adelaide United



0

## CC Mariners



2

## Match Details

**Adelaide United FC 0**  
**Central Coast Mariners 2**  
 (McBreen 4', Sterjovski 90+2')  
 Referee: Shaun Evans  
 Crowd: 8,069 @ Hindmarsh Stadium

**Adelaide United:** 20.Paul Izzo (gk), 3.Nigel Boogaard, 4.Jon McKain, 5.Iain Fyfe, 6.Cassio (c), 10.Dario Vidosic, 14.Cameron Watson, 17.Iain Ramsay, 19.Jake Barker-Daish, 21.Jeronimo Neumann (11.Bruce Djite 74'), 25.Tomi Juric (22.Fabio Ferreira 46')

Substitutes not used: 18.Fabian Barbiero, 30.John Hall (gk)  
 Yellow Cards: McKain 45', Boogaard 77'  
 Red Cards: Nil

**Central Coast Mariners:**  
 20.Justin Pasfield (gk), 2.Daniel McBreen, 3.Joshua Rose, 5.Zachary Anderson, 6.Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7.John Hutchinson (c), 9.Bernie Ibini, 11.Oliver Bozanic (29.Nick Fitzgerald 72'), 16.Trent Sainsbury, 18.Nick Montgomery, 19.Mitchell Duke (21.Mile Sterjovski 90+2')

Substitutes not used: 13.Brent Griffiths, 30.David Bradasevic (gk)  
 Yellow Cards: Nil  
 Red Cards: Nil

# Mariners Win Sets Up Premiership Plate D-Day

By Matt Mays

In the penultimate game of the regular season, the Central Coast Mariners kept their Premier Plate dream alive as they defeated a poor Adelaide United side at Hindmarsh on Sunday.

The Reds had plenty of possession but a comfortable Mariners side thanked McBreen and a late brace from Sterjovski to seal all three points.

Both teams reserve keeper's Paul Izzo and Justin Pastfield was given an opportunity to prove their worth after both Galekovic and Ryan were still away on international duty.

The Reds welcomed back Bruce Djite after weeks on the sidelines, with Ferreira joining him on the bench. Jake Barker-Daish continues to impress and makes his 3rd successive start with Currusca missing out with a groin strain picked up against the Jets last weekend.

Mariners took an early lead with just three minutes on the clock. After some quick and effective build up play down the middle Duke fed the ball neatly past Fyfe to McBreen who slotted the ball nicely under Izzo with his first touch of the game.

The goal should have ignited the game into a high tempo affair but the next ten minutes flew by with very little action in the final third.

It took almost half an hour for the next chance. McBreen and Duke were continuing to give the Reds centre backs problems and almost gifted Ibini a chance but for a fine block from Boogaard.

Jeronimo and Juric where struggling to create anything worthy for the Reds while the Mariners should have gone 2 up. Zwaanswijk lofted the ball towards the box, McBreen rose, headed the ball perfectly for Matt Duke but his first time volley just crept over the bar. Adelaide was finding it very hard to keep those two at bay.

Mariners were looking sharper



Daniel McBreen (far right) gives Mariners that winning feeling again after a month of frustration in front of goals.

Photo: ADAM BUTLER

and wanting it more. Jurich's first touch was letting him down time after time, while at the other end the Mariners front two looked to be having a field day.

Ferreira was sent rushing out during the break to warm up and replaced Juric. Adelaide then switched to a more organised 4-4-1-1 with Vidosic playing as a free play maker behind Jeronimo.

Adelaide starting the second half with a lot more urgency than they did in the first and should have levelled the tie early on. Ramsey picked up the ball on the left hand side, beat Sainsbury for pace before pulling it back for Jeronimo

from three metres, but his scuffed effort rolled agonisingly wide of the post.

Ramsey was inches to producing the goal of the season after Dario Vidosic produced an inch perfect fifty yard pass to his left foot but his volley from the edge of the box bounced off the crossbar. It was a magnificent effort which was appreciated by the Hindmarsh crowd.

Djite came on for the last seventeen minutes in place of Jeronimo but it was a quiet return.

Twice in stoppage time Ramsey fired the ball into the goal mouth and twice no Adelaide player was

even close to getting on the end of it. The final ball was lacking conviction today for Adelaide.

Mariners put the final nail in the coffin in the last minute when substitute Mile Sterjovski tucked away a well worked goal with his first touch, after McBreen headed down from an Ibini lofted ball. It summed up a miserable night for an Adelaide side that lacked any conviction in the final third, whereas the Mariners took their chances when they arose.

Despite the loss, stand in boss Val-

kanis remained positive.

"That was the first time in a long time where we outplayed the Mari-

ners in the possession game."

"It's not so much doom and gloom, the result isn't the best but if you take away the goals we conceded, what else did the Mariners do?"

Mariner boss Graham Arnold hailed the attitude of his team, who were not paid this week after some financial issues arose at the club.

"It's been an extremely tough week,

what with not being paid and it's a

disgraceful situation. It shows you

the type of characters we have in

the dressing room."

## Man of the Match

**Daniel McBreen**  
(Mariners)



Goal-scorer Mile Sterjovski gets the acclaim from Patrick Zwaanswijk and Nick Montgomery. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Patrick Zwaanswijk stretches to stop Jeronimo.

Photo: ADAM BUTLER

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**Brisbane Roar**



2

**Melbourne Heart**



0

**Match Details**

**Brisbane Roar 2** (Besart Berisha 12'(P), Thomas Broich 31')  
**Melbourne Heart 0**  
 Sunday, 24 March 2013 At 4pm  
 Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane  
 Referee: Matt Gillett  
 Crowd: 9,869

**Brisbane Roar:** 1. Michael Theo (GK), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 14. Steven Lustica (10. Henrique 78'), 15. James Donachie, 17. Mitch Nichols (9. Stefan Nijland 63'), 18. Luke Brattan, 19. Jack Hingert (11. Ben Halloran 90+1', 22. Thomas Broich (C), 26. Corey Brown

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matthew Acton (GK)  
 Yellow Cards: Luke Brattan 70'  
 Red Cards: Nil

**Melbourne Heart:** 20. Andrew Redmayne (GK), 8. Matt Thompson, 10. Josip Tadic (9. Dylan Macallister 69'), 11. Richard Garcia, 14. Golgol Mebrathu (36. Eli Babalj 62'), 15. David Williams, 16. Marcel Meeuwis, 18. David Vrankovic, 21. Jamie Coyne, 24. Sam Mitchinson, 25. Jeremy Walker

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Clint Bolton (GK), 17. Jason Hoffman  
 Yellow Cards: Marcel Meeuwis 14', David Williams 36', Jamie Coyne 36'  
 Red Cards: Nil

# Roar Break Heart's Faint Finals Hopes

By Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane took control of their finals destiny and put an end to Melbourne Heart's own finals hopes with a 2-0 win on Sunday afternoon. The win sets up a blockbuster encounter between Brisbane Roar and Sydney FC on Thursday night, both clubs chasing a finals place and the only way to secure it being to take the three points.

A penalty from Besart Berisha and a fabulous strike from Thomas Broich were the difference on a day when once again Heart failed to take their home form with them on their travels.

It's been the story of Heart's season, having bested Brisbane twice at their own ground the red half of Melbourne should have been confident of a result but it now seems likely that the Heart will finish the season with only a single away win.

Only one point taken outside of Melbourne of a possible thirty-six is indicative of a team that has the potential to match it with the A-League's best but for mental or tactical reasons just hasn't shown up on the road.

Brisbane have had their own problems this season, never truly looking like the side that took out back-to-back A-League Championships, but on Sunday the Roar showed that there's still some fight left in the old dog yet.

It was all Brisbane in the opening forty-five and the home side raced out to their 2-0 lead inside the first half hour of play.

In the 11th minute, a push in the back from Sam Mitchinson saw Ivan Franjic fall inside the area with referee Matt Gillett seeing enough contact to award a spot kick.

Albanian striker Besart Berisha shouldered the responsibility and struck the ball past former Roar goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne



	Match Stats	
2	Saves	5
8	Attempts on target	3
16	Attempts off target	4
58%	Possession	42%
13	Corners	6
3	Offsides	2
9	Fouls committed	11

Besart Berisha gives thanks to ye gods above and the defending champs sense finals football. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

to notch up Brisbane's first and his 13th goal of the 2012/13 campaign.

That sparked Roar into life and as the home side turned on the style and turned the screw, the Red and White struggled to cope and eventually went further behind in the 31st minute.

German playmaker and stand-in captain Thomas Broich was the man to give Brisbane some breathing space, unleashing a thunderbolt from 25 metres out that sent the Roar faithful into raptures around Suncorp Stadium.

Heart had a rare chance on the stroke of half-time when Golgol Mebrahtu curled a free kick high and wide over Roar's cross bar.

The Red and White seemed a more structured side in the sec-

ond half as Head Coach John Aloisi delivered instructions at the break, but the Heart found it difficult to contend with a Roar side oozing with confidence.

A clever through ball from Mitch Nichols in the 58th minute found Steven Lustica in space inside the penalty area but the midfielder blazed his shot over before Luke Brattan went close to a maiden Hyundai A-League goal with a long-range effort that flew wide of the post moments later.

Substitute Stef Nijland went agonisingly close to Brisbane's third but his powerful, curling strike bounced off the inside of the post to Redmayne's left and away to safety.

Heart thought that they had pulled a goal back when substi-

tute Eli Babalj linked nicely with fellow strike partner Josip Tadic, but despite slotting the ball past Michael Theo, the Croatian's effort was ruled out for offside.

Roar also had an effort scratched out for offside, but Heart threw everything at the home side in the dying minutes as David Williams, with a low strike, and then Vrankovic, with a downward header from a corner, produced excellent stops from Theo.

After the match Brisbane's Mike Mulvey was understandably pleased with the result.

"I'll take that first half performance any day of the week," Mulvey said.

"I can't give them enough praise for that first half performance, they were really good to watch,

they created chances and our movement was good.

"We talked about the second half about not becoming complacent and while we didn't, we stopped doing the things we did well in the first half."

In contrast Heart's manager John Aloisi lamented the end to his side's finals hopes.

"It's disappointing because it means our season is over now, we can't possibly make finals," Aloisi said.

"I thought that Brisbane deserved the win. They were a lot better than us, especially in the first half."

**Man of the Match**  
 Thomas Broich  
 (Roar)



Andrew Redmayne can't get down quick enough to stop Besart Berisha's well struck penalty kick. Photo ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Roar keeper Michael Theo takes command in a busy penalty area. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE

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# PICS OF ROUND 26



Les Shorrock's  
Action Packed  
Picture Page



Sydney Fc players celebrate  
Alessandro Del Piero's opener.  
Photo: ALI ERHAN



Melbourne Victory president  
Anthony Di Pietro rubs  
shoulders with TV anchor-  
woman Helen Kapalos at a  
pre-match function. Photo:  
ANITA MILAS



Wanderers fans are in full voice for the Sydney derby.  
PHOTO: ALI ERHAN



All aboard Mariners'  
Premier's Plate Fancy  
Dress Party Express!  
Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Melbourne Victory's southern terrace spur their  
heroes on. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Perth Glory's Josh Risdon scores a last gasp winner  
to keep the West Australians in the finals hunt.  
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Roar and Heart players exchange formalities before  
getting down to business. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



Brisbane Roar fans hope to make it a hat-trick of  
titles this year. Photo: ADRIAN GAGLIONE



# Socceroos 2-2 OMAN



Les Shorrock's  
Action Packed  
Picture Page



Te Green and Gold Army show their colours.



The Socceroos line up prior to kick off



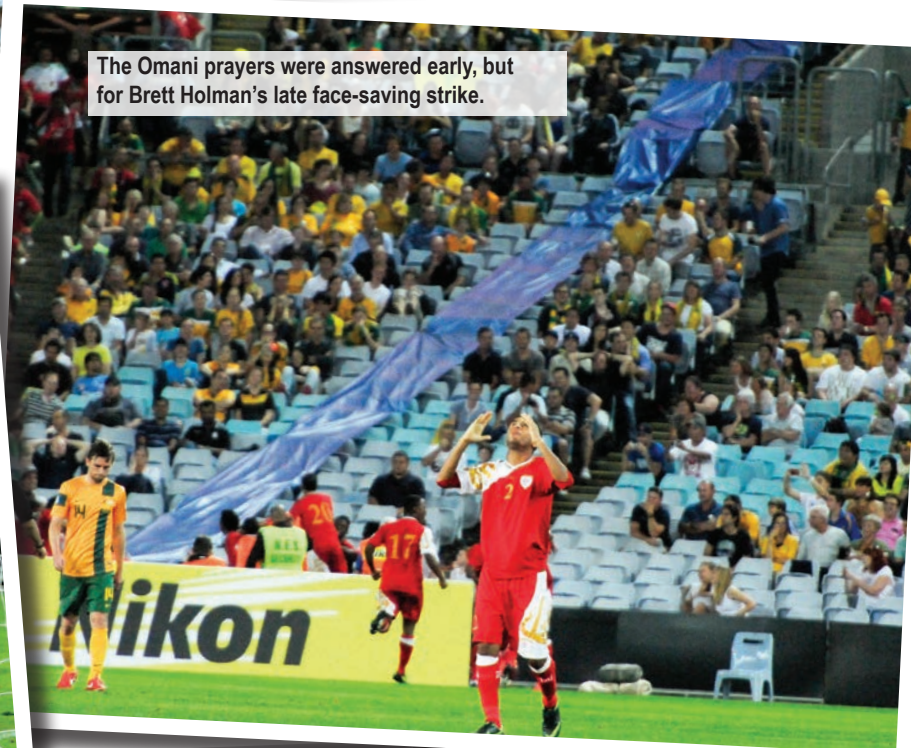
Timmy Cahill makes another acrobatic attempt on goal



The Omanis celebrate after opening a surprise lead.



Timmy Cahill collects teh ball after Brett Holman's scorching shot level the score at 2-2



The Omani prayers were answered early, but for Brett Holman's late face-saving strike.



Ali Maqballi slips the ball past an advancing Mark Schwarzer to give the Omanis a shock



Ali Habsi pulls of another one of his many saves on the night.





## Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (gk)
  3. Shane Stefanutto
  4. Matt Jurman
  5. Ivan Franjic
  7. Besart Berisha
  8. Massimo Muroccca
  9. Stef Nijland
  10. Henrique
  11. Ben Halloran
  13. Jade North
  14. Steven Lustica
  15. James Donachie
  17. Mitch Nichols
  18. Luke Brattan
  19. Jack Hingert
  20. Matt Acton (gk)
  22. Thomas Broich (c)
  25. George Lambadaridis
  26. Corey Brown
- (Four to be omitted)

**Ins:** 4. Matt Jurman (promoted), 8. Massimo Muroccca (promoted), 13. Jade North (returns from international duty), 25. George Lambadaridis (promoted)

**Outs:** Nil  
**Unavailable:** 2. Matt Smith (hip – season)

## Brisbane Roar v Sydney FC

Thu Mar 28 Suncorp Stadium 8:00pm

By Jarrod Ellis

One game. Three points. A place in the A-League Finals. A shot at the A-League Championship. There's a lot on the line when Brisbane Roar and Sydney FC face off at Suncorp Stadium this Thursday night.

Both clubs have experienced frustrating A-League seasons and after 26 rounds have only managed to collect a grand total of 32 points each. That total sees them sit in fifth and sixth on the A-League ladder, just scraping into the finals places.

As all involved are aware the top six qualifies for the finals, but with both Newcastle Jets and a resurgent Perth Glory sitting on 31 points going into the final round of the round neither team at Suncorp can afford not to win.

Brisbane have disappointed more than most this season but showed last weekend against Heart that provided with the proper motivation they can still turn in top-class performances.

Especially encouraging in the 2-0 win was the form of Thomas Broich, so often not up to his usual standard this season, the German playmaker remains the key to the Roar's attack and his combination with Besart Berisha is the most likely source of goals for the team.

Despite holding Heart scoreless last weekend in his absence, it's likely that Jade North will return to the starting line-up for the clash against Sydney.

Brisbane's defence has been suspect all season and as Nikolai Topor-Stanley discovered to his cost last weekend any lapses against the Sky Blues whilst Alessandro Del Piero is present will be sorely punish.

Brisbane coach Mike Mulvey has been bullish this week about his team's chances.

Referee: Peter Green

ABC Radio Coverage: Grandstand  
Digital Brisbane & online

### Head-to-Head

Played 25  
Roar FC 10  
Sydney FC 7  
Drawn 8

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #ROARvSYD

## Everything to Play for in Brisbane

### The Odds

Roar 1.72  
Draw 4.10  
SFC 5.00

### As A Matter Of Fact

■ A Peter Triantis thunderbolt broke the deadlock in Sydney FC's last start 2-1 victory against Brisbane Roar

■ Brisbane Roar have won eight of the twelve games played between these two clubs at Suncorp Stadium and lost only twice

■ Brisbane Roar have been held scoreless only once in their last nine games at Suncorp Stadium

■ Sydney FC will be looking for their fourth consecutive game without loss for the first time since 25 March 2012

■ Superstar Alessandro Del Piero (3) is the only current Sydney player to have scored more than one goal against the Brisbane Roar in past encounters between these two clubs



## Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
  2. Sebastian Ryal
  3. Fabio
  8. Adam Griffiths
  10. Alessandro Del Piero
  12. Blake Powell
  13. Tiago Calvano
  15. Terry McFlynn
  16. Joel Chianese
  17. Terry Antonis
  20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
  21. Yairo Yau
  22. Ali Abbas
  23. Rhyan Grant
  26. Peter Triantis
  29. Joel Griffiths
- (One to be omitted)

**Ins:** Terry McFlynn (returns from injury), Fabio (promoted), Blake Powell (promoted)

**Outs:** Brett Emerton (suspended) 32. Lucas Neill

**Unavailable:** Brett Emerton (suspended, 1 week), Pascal Bosschaert (heel, season), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 1 week)



## Jets Line Up

1. Ben Kennedy
  2. Scott Neville
  3. Zenon Caravella
  5. Dominik Ritter
  7. James Brown
  8. Ruben Zadkovich
  9. Emile Heskey
  11. Connor Chapman
  12. Josh Brillante
  14. Taylor Regan
  15. Craig Goodwin
  17. James Virgili
  19. Michael Bridges
  20. Mark Birighitti (gk)
  21. Marko Jesic
  22. Adam Taggart
  25. Mitch Cooper
  26. Andrew Hoole
- (Three to be omitted)

**In:** Emile Heskey (return from injury), Ben Kennedy (return from injury), Taylor Regan (elevated), Mitch Cooper (elevated)

**Outs:** Jack Duncan (omitted)  
**Unavailable:** Ben Kantarovski (knee)

## Newcastle Jets v WS Wanderers

Fri Mar 29 Hunter Stadium 5:30pm

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets face Western Sydney Wanderers this Friday in a match of utmost importance to both sides in the final round of the A-League.

Hunter Stadium will be rocking with the arrival of almost 6,000 Wanderers fans as their team attempts to gain the point they need to become minor premiers in their first season in the competition.

Newcastle on the other hand is sitting in 8th position a mere point outside of the finals positions and a win in this game would almost undoubtedly qualify them for a trip to Melbourne or Adelaide in the first weekend of the finals.

Newcastle have had a long and uninterrupted preparation for this match due to the fact their match against Phoenix was wound forward to allow for New Zealand to gain access to their players for vital world cup qualifiers.

As a result players like Emile Heskey and Zenon Caravella have had time to get over niggling injuries and will take their places in the Jets most important game of the season.

Western Sydney is not so lucky. Clouds hang over the fitness of left back and former Jet Adam Dapuzzo and the influential Aaron Mooy.

This adds to the season ending injury of their irrepressible marquee man Shinji Ono. He limped off in the derby last weekend with a groin problem in what is a crucial blow to the Wanderers title aspirations.

Iacopo la Rocca is also out for the season after his inexcusable elbow in the derby was punished with a 4 game ban by the FFA.

Referee: Ben Williams

### The Odds

Jets 3.20  
Draw 3.40  
WSW 2.25

ABC Radio Coverage: 702 ABC Sydney, Local Radio NSW, 1233 ABC Newcastle, Grandstand Digital & online

### Head-to-Head

Played 2  
Jets 1  
Wanderers 1  
Drawn 0

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #JETSvWSW

## High Stakes on Good Friday for Jets and Wanderers

Just how this affects the Wanderers on Friday remains to be seen but what cannot be questioned is the form that the Wanderers are currently in. They won 10 straight matches before last week's draw against their arch rivals and manager Tony Popovic has them playing in a highly organised manner.

Wanderers are also lightning on the counter attack and ensure that every time they possess the ball they do so with pace and intent.

One man that is crucial to this is wide man Youssef Hersi. The diminutive winger has caused problems for all defences this season with his ability to beat his direct opponent before supplying quality service for his striker.

Mark Bridge has profited from this on many occasions and is having his

finest season in the A-League.

Newcastle will again look to their veteran Englishmen in Michael Bridges and Heskey to provide the punch in the final third in an effort to unlock the Wanderers defence which is superbly marshalled by Michael Beauchamp and another former Jet in Nikolai Topor-Stanley.

Newcastle usually relies on a parochial home crowd to get them home at Hunter Stadium. The Wanderers travelling army will ensure that this vital edge will be lost to the home side and tips the balance in the visitor's favour, who should secure them point they need to be presented with the Premiers Plate.

**Kiss of Death  
Jets 1-1 Wanderers**

### As A Matter Of Fact

■ The spoils are split one a-piece between these two clubs after the Wanderers held on for a 2-1 victory when they last met in early February

■ The overall winning streak may be over for the Wanderers, but they will still be looking for a club record seventh away win in succession, equalling the second best streak in A-League history

■ The Wanderers have not been held scoreless away from home since Round 9 this season

■ Newcastle Jets have not won a final round clash since 2007/08 when they defeated Perth Glory 2-1

■ Newcastle Jets will host the Wanderers at Hunter Stadium for the first time, having won just once in their last four clashes at home

■ Western Sydney Wanderers require only a draw to be assured of the Premiers Plate



## Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
  2. Shannon Cole
  3. Adam D'Apuzzo
  5. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
  5. Michael Beauchamp
  6. Jerome Polenz
  7. Labinot Haliti
  8. Mateo Poljak
  9. Dino Kresinger
  10. Aaron Mooy
  11. Tarek Elrich
  13. Joey Gibbs
  14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
  15. Reece Caira
  16. Rocky Visconte
  17. Youssef Hersi
  19. Mark Bridge
  21. Shinji Ono
  23. Jason Trifiro
  25. Josh Barresi
  30. Carlos Saliadarré (GK)
- (Six to be omitted)

**Ins:** 13. Joey Gibbs, 15. Reece Caira, (promoted), 5. Michael Beauchamp, 6. Jerome Polenz, 10. Aaron Mooy, 25. Josh Barresi (return from injury), 17. Youssef Hersi (back from suspension)

**Outs:** Nil

**Unavailable:** 12. Tahj Minniecon (foot season), 18. Iacopo La Rocca (suspended 4 weeks), 20. Jerrard Tyson (GK) (back)

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## Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
  2. Daniel Mcbreen
  3. Joshua Rose
  4. Pedj Bojic
  5. Zachary Anderson
  6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
  7. John Hutchinson
  8. Adriano Pellegrino
  9. Bernie Ibini
  11. Oliver Bozanic
  13. Brent Griffiths
  14. Michael Mcglinchey
  15. Brad Mcdonald
  16. Trent Sainsbury
  17. Anthony Caceres
  18. Nick Montgomery
  19. Mitchell Duke
  20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
  21. Mile Sterjovski
  29. Nick Fitzgerald
- (Five to be omitted)

Ins: 1. Matthew Ryan (Gk) (returns from international duty – Qantas Socceroos), 4. Pedj Bojic, 8. Adriano Pellegrino (both promoted), 14. Michael Mcglinchey (returns from international duty – New Zealand All Whites), 15. Brad Mcdonald, 17. Anthony Caceres (both promoted)

Outs: 30. David Bradasevic (not selected)

Unavailable: 23. Adam Kwasnik (knee – season)

By Adrian Deans

What a week for the Mariners.

Talk of strike action – change of ownership – Arnie threatening to play the kids because of fixture fatigue...

There was also (believe it or not) a football match, away against Adelaide, which the Mariners managed to win two nil and keep alive their vague hope of defending the Premier's Plate.

I think they're a fair chance of doing exactly that. The Wanderers will have to go to Newcastle, who are capable of beating anyone on their day, and get the points despite injuries and suspensions.

La Rocca is out. Shinji Ono, in all likelihood is out. Not sure about Mooy and Polenz, but there's a good chance they're still out injured. Newcastle will be desperate for the points they need to give them a chance of playing in the finals so Western Sydney are up against it.

If WSW win, or draw, then they will wrap up the plate and the Mariners' result will not matter. In that circumstance Arnie will definitely play the kids and save the first team for the ACL in midweek.

On the other hand, if the Wanderers somehow manage to leave the back door open, then you can lay your house on the fact that the kids will be saved for the ACL while the veterans go hammer and tongs against the Heart on Saturday night.

It's been a lousy season for Johnny Aloisi and his team. They show flashes of brilliance and have some superb players – I'm extremely impressed with Jeremy Walker – and with the likes of Thompson, Germano, Wil-

ABC Radio Coverage: 702 ABC Sydney, 92.5 ABC Central Coast, Local Radio NSW, Grandstand Digital Sydney & Online

### Head-to-Head

Played 8  
Mariners 6  
Heart 1  
Drawn 1

## Mariners By the Skin of Their Teeth?

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #SydneyDerby #CCMvMH

liams, Gerhardt, Colosimo, Garcia and Eli Babalj, how on earth are they languishing at the bottom of the table?

The major concern for the Mariners is that, now the pressure is finally off, the Heart might start playing with the verve and finesse their roster promises and surprise the home team in their hour of need.

Having said that, the likelihood is that the Mariners will go all out for the points, regardless of which team takes the field. I suspect there is a 51% chance that the Newcastle Jets will upset the Wanderers and inspire the Mariners to an epic thrashing of the Heart. And if the Wanderers do get at least the point they need in Newcastle, the Mariners kids will be keen

## Sat Mar 30 Bluetongue Stdm 5:30pm

Referee: Jarred Gillett

### The Odds

Mariners 1.38  
Draw 5.00  
Heart 7.50

### As A Matter Of Fact

▮ A Pedj Bojic double against a hapless Clint Bolton gave the Mariners a 2-0 victory against the Heart when they last met mid-December last year

▮ Central Coast Mariners have won seven of their last ten matches against the Melbourne Heart

▮ Melbourne Heart have never defeated the Mariners at Bluetongue Stadium (from three attempts)

▮ Melbourne Heart are in the unenviable position of being on a club record losing streak, looking to avoid a fifth successive loss this weekend

▮ The Heart will once again be under the microscope as they travel away from Melbourne, having only brought one point home from away trips this season

▮ Central Coast Mariners will be looking for a third consecutive clean sheet for the first time since 12 November 2010

**Kiss of Death  
Mariners 4-0 Heart**

MELBOURNE  
HEART



## Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton
  4. Simon Colosimo
  6. Patrick Gerhardt
  8. Matt Thompson
  9. Dylan Macallister
  10. Josip Tadic
  11. Richard Garcia
  14. Golgol Mebrathu
  15. David Williams
  16. Marcel Meeuwis
  17. Jason Hoffman
  18. David Vrankovic
  19. Ben Garuccio
  20. Andrew Redmayne
  21. Jamie Coyne
  22. Nick Kalmar
  24. Sam Mitchinson
  25. Jeremy Walker
  36. Eli Babalj
- (Four to be omitted)

Ins: 4. Simon Colosimo (returns from suspension), 6. Patrick Gerhardt (international duty), 19. Ben Garuccio, 22. Nick Kalmar

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 3. Cameron Edwards (ankle – season), 5. Fred (quad – season), 13. Jonatan Germano (hamstring – season), 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot – season)



## Glory Line Up

- 1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
  - 2.Jack Clisby
  - 5.Steve Pantelidis
  - 6.Nick Ward
  - 7.Jacob Burns
  - 8.Dean Heffernan
  - 11.Adrian Zahra
  - 12.Ryo Nagai
  - 14.Steven McGarry
  - 15.Brandon O'Neill
  - 16.Evan Berger
  - 18.Matias Cordoba
  - 19.Josh Risdon
  - 21.Scott Jamison
  - 23.Michael Thwaite
  - 22.Ndumba Makeche
  - 24.Storm Roux
  - 26.Riley Woodcock
  - 27.Matthew Davies
  - 28.Daniel De Silva
  - 30.Lewis Italiano (gk)
- (Six to be omitted)

Ins: 7.Jacob Burns (returns from suspension), 15.Brandon O'Neill, 16.Evan Berger, 22.Ndumba Makeche, 23.Michael Thwaite (returns from international duty), 24.Storm Roux, 26.Riley Woodcock, 27.Matthew Davies, 28.Daniel De Silva

Out: 10.Miller (suspended – 1 game), 13.Travis Dodd (Knee – TBA), 17.Chris Harold (calf – 3-4 weeks)

Unavailable: 9.Shane Smeltz (stitches – 1 week), 10.Miller (suspended – 1 game), 13.Travis Dodd (Knee – TBA), 17.Chris Harold (calf – 3-4 weeks)

## Perth Glory v Adelaide United

By Matt Mays

It's the last round of the regular season but at the end of this one it could see both these sides claim a place in Finals Series 2013. With Adelaide though already securing their top four spot two weeks ago, the Glory still have it all to do.

Perth can still finish either fifth or sixth respectively. If the game between Brisbane and Sydney on Friday ends in a draw, a Glory win would see them finish fifth; and should we see a winner at Suncorp, then a win would clinch fifth, with the loser in Brisbane missing out. Only a miracle would see a Perth win NOT be rewarded with a finals spot.

Adelaide however are hoping to pip their inter-state rivals to third spot and could put the pressure on Victory before their match in Wellington on Easter Monday. If United win and better Victory's result, they will finish in the top three, and face a home final against the team finishing sixth.

So this one COULD be a dress rehearsal for a finals meeting in two weeks, should results pan out that way.

Adelaide is pushing for good news as they wait results of late fitness tests to see if Carrusca and defender Osama Malik are fit and available for selection. The pair both missed the home defeat to the Mariners last week and the side looked a different side without them.

Some good news for Reds fans though as skipper Eugene Galekovic returns in goals from his inter-

Referee: Kris-Griffiths Jones

ABC Radio Coverage: 720 ABC Perth, Local Radio Western Australia, Grandstand Digital & online

### Head-to-Head

Played 23  
Perth Glory 8  
Adelaide Utd 11  
Drawn 4

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #PGvREDS

## Glory Hope to Secure Finals Berth

national call up.

The Reds have ended the season poorly, having only won 3 of their past 10 games. Their season was looking a very promising one indeed until John Kosmina shocked the city and left the club, leaving Valkanis to pick up the pieces. Not to say the bad form is all Valkanis' fault of course.

Perth will be full of confidence after snatching a dramatic late late 3-2 win at Melbourne Victory last week. But they were dealt a cruel blow in the aftermath of the match when scans revealed that forward Travis Dodd is facing a long road to recovery as he tore two ligaments in his knee during the tie. Coach Alistair Edwards spoke of his disappointment.

"It's really sad news for the club. Travis was in very good form and is an important player in our squad."

The Glory is out to celebrate this Saturday and is expecting a record 18,000 fans to show at Nib Stadium. The club have distributed over 10,000 complimentary tickets to 67 junior clubs to celebrate the opening match at the new, fully developed stadium.

Club Deputy Chairman Lui Giuliani stated:

"This is a special thank you to the Football family. With a win needed to secure our finals spot, we want this to be a special event." This will be a very tense affair. Adelaide will most certainly not want to lose this one but Perth will want it that little bit more.

### The Odds

Glory 1.70  
Draw 3.80  
AUFC 5.50

### As A Matter Of Fact

▮ Perth Glory will become the seventh (and last foundation) club to register their 200th A-League game, managing 64 wins, 44 draws and 91 losses in their A-League history

▮ Perth Glory threatened a comeback late in injury time when these teams last met, Adelaide United holding on for a 3-2 win

▮ Adelaide United have beaten the Glory just once in their last six attempts

▮ Adelaide United will be looking for back-to-back wins against the Glory for the first time since 10 November 2010

▮ Perth Glory have the second worst record in the competition when they score first, winning only six from ten games after drawing first blood

**Kiss of Death  
Glory 1-0 AUFC**



## Adelaide Utd Line Up

- 1.Eugene Galekovic
  - 2.Osama Malik
  - 4.Jon McKain
  - 5.Iain Fyfe
  - 6.Cassio (c)
  - 8.Marcelo Carrusca
  - 10.Dario Vidosic
  - 11.Bruce Djite
  - 12.Antony Golec
  - 14.Cameron Watson
  - 17.Iain Ramsay
  - 18.Fabian Barbiero
  - 19.Jake Barker-Daish
  - 20.Paul Izzo (gk)
  - 21.Jeronimo Neumann
  - 22.Fabio Ferreira
  - 25.Tomi Juric
- (Two to be omitted)

Ins: Eugene Galekovic (gk) (returns from international duty), Osama Malik (returns from injury), Marcelo Carrusca (returns from injury), Antony Golec (promoted)

Outs: Nigel Boogaard (suspended – 1 match), John Hall (gk) (omitted)

Unavailable: Nil



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Phoenix Line Up

- Mark Paston (GK)
- Manny Muscat
- Tony Lochhead
- Isaka Cernak
- Leo Bertos
- Paul Ifill
- Benji Totori
- Stein Huysegems
- Jeremy Brockie
- Tyler Boyd
- Ian Hogg
- Cameron Lindsay
- Louis Fenton
- Ben Sigmund
- Dani Sanchez
- Andrew Durante (C)
- Corey Gameiro
- Scott Basalaj (GK) (Three to be omitted)

Ins: 9. Benji Totori (promoted), 12. Tyler Boyd (returns from international duty), 16. Louis Fenton (returns from international duty), 30. Scott Basalaj (injury replacement)

Outs: 12. Glen Moss (knee injury – 4-6 weeks)

Unavailable: Glen Moss (knee injury – 4-6 weeks), Vince Lia (toe injury (3 to 4 weeks), Jimmy Downey (knee injury – indefinite)

Wellington Phoenix v Melb Victory

Sun Mar 31 Westpac Stadium 2:30pm

By Joe Gallagher

It will no doubt be a curious experience this weekend for Marco Rojas.

Sure, it's a funny feeling for most players, returning to their old stomping ground, but Melbourne Victory's leading scorer will have added familiarity with his Wellington Phoenix opposition at Wetspac Stadium this Easter Sunday.

Rojas has just spent a week with several members of the Phoenix while on international duty with the All Whites, in which time he secured New Zealand's progression to the next phase of 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification.

But, come Sunday, the man dubbed 'the Kiwi Messi' in this part of the world will lace up his boots in preparation of coming up against the likes of Mark Paston, Andrew Durante, Ben Sigmund, Leo Bertos, Jeremy Brockie, Tony Lochhead, and Ian Hogg.

Victory will be hopeful that the match is a dead-rubber by the time kick-off rolls around – if Perth upset Adelaide United on Saturday night, Melbourne could already be guaranteed a third place finish.

But Ange Postecoglou has demanded an improved performance after last weekend's disappointing last-minute loss against the Glory. He will no doubt have one eye on his team for his side's first match in the playoffs a week later.

On the other hand Wellington will go into the match with a chance – albeit slim – of avoiding the wooden spoon, a goal the Phoenix have made no secret of announcing this week.

They will also be keen to provide a good final performance in a season

Referee: Adam Kersey

Rojas Returns To Familiar Surrounds



which has been utterly disastrous for a side that was touted as a top-four and title contender in the pre-season.

While some members of the Victory will be playing for starting spots in week one of the finals, Phoenix players could still be playing for contracts.

No fewer than nine of interim coach Chris Greenacre's men are off-contract at the end of the season, and critics have circled around the likes of Paston, Lochhead, Bertos, Dani Sanchez and Alexander Smith all season.

While all but Smith would be likely to have one last chance at proving their worth to Greenacre, Tony Lochhead's chances of leaving a lasting impression with the Yellow Fever faithful over the long off-season

ABC Radio Coverage: Score updates during Grandstand programs

Head-to-Head

Played 17  
Phoenix 2  
Victory 9  
Drawn 6

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #NIXvMV

vanished when he was injured while training with the national squad last week.

Even Greenacre himself – who has confirmed that he will not be head coach at the start of next season – is hopeful of retaining a position at the club in some capacity.

He has won two of his four matches in charge of the side, and has hauled the Phoenix to within striking distance of avoiding bottom place, a spot that seemed to belong to Wellington when previous coach Ricki Herbert stood down.

He will have to take a result from the match, and hope that a result in Gosford goes his way, but he has at least given his side a chance.

It would be, however, just an Easter egg among a season of disappointment in Wellington.

The Odds

Phoenix 2.65  
Draw 3.55  
Victory 2.80

As A Matter Of Fact

Goals either side of the break were enough to grant the Victory a fifth consecutive win over the Phoenix when they last clashed in early January

Wellington Phoenix return after a two week break from action looking for back-to-back wins for the first time since 4th March 2012

Melbourne Victory are poised for their sixth consecutive win over the Wellington Phoenix, extending their second best streak against any single opponent

Melbourne Victory have not won outside of Melbourne since January 19 this year

Jeremy Brockie (2) is the only Phoenix player to have beaten a Victory goalkeeper more than once in previous iterations of this fixture

Kiss of Death  
Phoenix 1-2 Victory

Timewasting tactics must be eradicated

A-League Rewind



By Robert Di Fabio

Australia's clash with Oman in the Asian World Cup Qualifier on Tuesday night was disappointing on numerous levels. Despite a spirited fight-back from the Socceroos in the second half – to even the ledger at 2-2 – the solitary point was simply not good enough, against an opponent notoriously weak away from home.

Holger Osieck's troops will now have a tussle on its hands to win automatic qualification to Brazil 2014, after minnow Jordan upset group leader Japan 2-1, moving the Jordanians into second spot. While Australia still has a game in hand, it will almost certainly need to claim maximum points in its final two home fixtures against Jordan in Melbourne and Iraq in Sydney.

While there were many issues to dissect from the tenuous Socceroos performance, including

tactical analysis, selection and substitutions, the subject of simulation, and particularly timewasting has seemingly been ignored by media outlets.

A football game is intended to be played for 90 minutes. In Tuesday's outing, there was only around 75 minutes, at best of actual playing time – due to the Omani's disgraceful simulation antics every few minutes. Yes, Australia played poorly, and can only blame themselves for not winning on home turf. However, something needs to be done regarding some of these Asian and Middle Eastern nations, who are repeat offenders of abysmal playacting, in tandem with their mischievous attempts to deceive referees.

The straw which broke the camel's back was when an Omani player deliberately went to the turf in the second period, wincing comically in pain. Once the stretcher came to his aid, two minutes had elapsed. What happens when the medical team place him on the sideline? He gets up instantly, trying to grab the referee's attention to re-enter the field of play.

This, in conjunction with the many other antics on the night, was a downright disgrace, not only to the Omani football – who doesn't appear too bothered by

the disruptive tactics – but also to the game we love so dearly.

Football, as a spectacle suffers. Supporters become ostensibly frustrated, it ruins the image of the game, and of course, the opposition's momentum is hindered by these duplicitous tactics. Socceroos centre-half Michael Thwaite couldn't hold back his displease post-game, arguing that the Omani team were not playing within the spirit of fair-play. "I don't like the way they play, rolling around and all that stuff," he revealed.

Many competitions and countries around the globe are not devoid of timewasting and simulation – all nations are somewhat guilty in these regard. Although Oman's blatant disregard to play within the rules was certainly elevated to another level. It's a trend many Australians have witnessed when facing Asian opposition.

In relation to timewasting, how do we eradicate these cancer-like tactics from world football?

World governing body FIFA must be stringent in policing this. New rules implemented, as follows can help exterminate these time-wasting tactics.

- If a player receives treatment on the pitch, once on the sideline, they cannot re-enter the field of play for a minimum of two

minutes.

- If a player is stretchered off, assuming they are fit to continue, they cannot re-enter the field of play for a minimum of five minutes.

If these simple rules are employed by FIFA, it would go a long way towards eradicating stalling tactics. On Tuesday night, it was clearly evident that Oman coach Paul Le Guen had no problems with his players' behaviour, as evidenced by his antagonising gestures towards Osieck on the sideline.

While this deceitful trend isn't much of an issue in Australian football, it is widely seen in international football, and perceived in a negative fashion on our shores. Unfortunately, for some of these nations, it is part of their culture win, or draw at any means possible – even if this involves deceitful and deceptive conduct. Let's hope, in the near future FIFA gets on the front foot, and truly makes a valid attempt at being proactive with its laws on the modern game.

Hyundai Goal for Grassroots

Congratulations to Mount Druitt Town Rangers FC for being selected as the Hyundai Goals For Grassroots junior club for Round 26. By virtue of Western Sydney Wanderers scoring one goal this round, the club received a \$2000 grant courtesy of Hyundai.

To nominate your club visit [www.goalsforgrassroots.com.au](http://www.goalsforgrassroots.com.au)



An Omani player goes to ground after a tackle by Alex Brosque. Photo: PETER NEVILLE



Victory Line Up

- Tando Velaphi (GK)
- Mark Milligan
- Leigh Broxham
- Marcos Flores
- Archie Thompson
- Marco Rojas
- Diogo Ferreira
- Billy Celeski
- Jimmy Jeggo
- Francesco Stella
- Spase Dilevski
- Adrian Leijer
- Andrew Nabbout
- Christopher Cristaldo
- Scott Galloway
- Connor Pain
- Daniel Mullen
- Dylan Murnane
- Nathan Coe (GK) (Five to be omitted)

Ins: Archie Thompson, Mark Milligan, Marco Rojas (all return from international duty)

Outs: Jesse Makarounas (hamstring)

Unavailable: Gui Finkler (knee), Nick Ansell (groin), Adama Traore (ankle), Jesse Makarounas (hamstring)



Santo, Sam & Ed Podcast

Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee are back in town with their own unique take on events of the week.

Their brief is simple - 7 days, 3 guys, no agenda.

Podcast available on iTunes

<http://itun.es/au/d0dQl.c>

Facebook: Santo, Sam and Ed

Twitter: @SantoSamEd





# SOCCEROOS

Goal! Weekly



The Road To Brazil



PHOTO: ALI ERIAN

Back Row: Robbie Kruse, Michael Thwaite, Mile Jedinak, Mark Schwarzer, Robbie Cornthwaite, Alex Brosque.  
Front Row: James Holland, Brett Holman, Timmy Cahill, Matt McKay, Luke Wilkshire.



## FFV STATE KNOCKOUT CUP Round 3

Round Four of the FFV Men's State Knockout Cup, Australia's largest senior knockout tournament, was drawn today with the 16 seeded teams (11 Victorian Premier League and 5 State League One) entering the competition. The Quarter Final fixtures for the Women's State Knockout Cup were also drawn.

In the only all-VPL clash of the round South Melbourne will host 2012 VPL grand finalists Oakleigh Cannons.

Some other big fixtures include Northcote City taking on Moreland Zebras, Altona Magic v Sunshine George Cross and North Geelong Warriors v Green Gully Cavaliers.

St Kilda are now the lowest ranked team remaining in the competition, with the State League Five South club upsetting

## Men's Round Four Fixtures

Heidelberg United v Moreland City  
Sunbury United v Preston Lions  
Pascoe Vale v Brunswick City/Cobram Victory  
Northcote City v Moreland Zebras  
Richmond SC v Monbulk Rangers  
Old Melburnians v Clifton Hill  
Port Melbourne Sharks v Box Hill United  
South Melbourne v Oakleigh Cannons  
Kingston City v Dandenong Thunder  
Werribee City v Southern Stars  
Bentleigh Greens v Springvale White Eagles

## Men's State Knockout Cup Round 3 Results

Monbulk Rangers SC 4 Old Carey SC 1  
Sunshine George Cross SC 2 St Albans Saints SC 0  
St Kilda SC 3 Mornington SC 1  
Elwood City SC 2 South Yarra SC 1  
Moreland City SC 8 Mill Park SC 0  
Heidelberg Stars SC 1 Preston Lions FC 2  
Hoppers Crossing SC 2 Balmoral FC 0  
Box Hill United SC 2 Malvern City FC 1

Mornington (State League Two South/East) in the previous round and could well be staking their claim as 2013's giant-killers. The club has avoided the big names in the Round Four draw and will face local rivals Elwood City (State League Four South) for a place in the final 16.

Monbulk Rangers are the only remaining State League club in the Women's State Knockout Cup and are set to host 2011 WPL Minor Premiers Sandringham. Monbulk overcame WPL side Preston Lions 5-3 but will face a sterner test in Sandringham who are coming off an 11-0 victory over State League Two South/East team Croydon City Arrows.

Showing the strength of men's and women's football, Preston Lions, Mon-

St Kilda v Elwood City  
Western Eagles v Hoppers Crossing  
North Geelong Warriors v Green Gully Cavaliers  
Altona Magic v Sunshine George Cross  
Melbourne Knights v Keilor Park

## Women's Quarter Final Fixtures

FC Bulleen Lions v Casey Comets  
Ashburton United v Box Hill United  
Monbulk Rangers v Sandringham  
South Melbourne Women v Heidelberg United

Brighton SC 0 Springvale White Eagles FC 3  
Sunbury United SC 3 La Trobe University SC 0  
FC Clifton Hill 3 Croydon City Arrows SC 1  
Sebastopol Vikings SC 2 Western Eagles SC 4  
Ballarat Red Devils SC 2 Keilor Park SC 4  
Old Melburnians SC 3 Melbourne University SC 2  
Kingston City FC 2 Mazenod United FC 0  
Brunswick City SC Cobram Victory FC

## FFA AND ME BANK FOR FAIRER PLAY



Football Federation Australia CEO David Gallop, tannounced the first ever nominees for the ME Bank Green Card for Fairer Play

Award.

The nominees are Hyundai A-League players Jerrad Tyson (Western Sydney Wanderers FC), Thomas Broich (Brisbane Roar FC) and Leigh Broxham (Melbourne Victory FC).

The Award is designed to recognise, reward and support the most significant gestures of Fairer Play within the Hyundai A-League community, both on and off the field.

It was established through an exciting new partnership between the Hyundai A-League and ME Bank.

The ME Bank Green Card for Fairer Play Award inaugural winner will be

judged by an esteemed 'Green Card Panel', including:

- Mark Bosnich and Mel McLaughlin – FOX SPORTS
- David Davutovic - Herald Sun
- Sebastian Hassett - Sydney Morning Herald
- Marco Monteverde - Courier Mail
- Damien de Bohun - Head of Hyundai A-League.
- Ange Postecoglou - Melbourne Victory FC and Foxtel A-League All Stars Head Coach

Fans can vote for the most deserving act of fairer play and go into the draw to win \$5000 plus a Grand Final package that includes two game tickets, return flights, accommodation and much more.

Fans can vote for their Fairer Play moment now via [www.aleaguefairer-play.com.au](http://www.aleaguefairer-play.com.au)

## Capital Football Federation Cup Round 1 Saturday 6th April 2013

ANU FC (Masters) v Queanbeyan City (Masters) at Hackett 1, kick off 12.30  
Senior NTC v ANU FC (SL1) at Hackett 1, kick off 14.30  
White Eagles (SL1) v Queanbeyan City (SL3) at Hackett 2, kick off 12.30  
Gungahlin United (SL5) v Queanbeyan City (SL1) at Hackett 2, kick off 14.30  
O'Connor Knights v Tuggeranong United (SL1) at Kambah 2-1, kick off 16.00  
Tuggeranong United (SL3) v Palerang at Kambah 2-1, kick off 14.00  
Burns FC v Weston Creek (SL3) at Deakin 1.01, kick off 12.30  
Weston Creek (SL4) v Crossroads at Deakin 1.01, kick off 14.30  
WestoN Creek (Masters) v Narrabundah (SL1) at Deakin 1.02, kick off 12.30  
Weston Creek (SL2) v Canberra FC (SL1) at Deakin 1.01, kick off 14.30

University of Canberra (SL1) – Bye

ANU FC (SL2) – Bye

Weston Creek (SL1) – Bye

Narrabundah (SL6) – Bye Gungahlin Juventus – Bye

Gungahlin United (Masters) – Bye

## Stevo's Corner



## By Steve Scott

Anyone already booked their flights to Brazil for next year's World Cup to watch the Socceroos? Are you now starting to question if you've booked your trip a little prematurely?

The Socceroos campaign to qualify for the 2014 World Cup is now looking like being a real dog fight.

Having qualified for the last two World Cups with relative ease, the Socceroos are in real danger of missing out on one of the two automatic qualification sports in Group B.

Japan has all but wrapped up one of the two automatic qualification spots, sitting on top of Group Three with 13 points.

The results from this week's qualifiers have really bunched up the remaining four teams in Group B. Jordan's surprise 2-1 victory over Japan saw them leap from bottom of Group B up to second spot on the table with seven points.

The Socceroos come from behind

2-2 draw at home to Oman saw sees them sit in third place on the table with six points, the same amount of points as fourth placed Oman.

The Socceroos have three group matches left to secure the second automatic qualifying spot in Group B. The next three matches see the Socceroos taking on top of the group Japan in Saitama in early June, followed by home matches against Jordan and Iraq.

Given the tightness of the Socceroos, apart from Japan who are runaway leaders on top of the group, they are no certainties to get the second automatic qualification spot in their group. The biggest concern for the Socceroos at the moment would have to be their recent form in World Cup qualifying matches. They will need to turn this form slump around if they are going to be successful and get the results they need to get in their final three matches.

Should the Socceroos miss out on an automatic qualification spot, they can still qualify for the World Cup, if the finish third in their group. If this occurs, the Socceroos would dace the third placed team from Group A in a two legged play-off in September.

Socceroos fans should buckle themselves in for the next three World Cup qualifying matches, which are likely to provide lots of drama for us all as we cheer our boys on.

## Boo's World



## SUMMER SERIES

## By Mark Boric

So I decided to make a few notes whilst watching the Australia v Oman World Cup Qualifier to base this week's column on. Went off the rails during the comeback and just started watching intently and throwing things, but probably have enough to scrape through.

OMAN ANTHEM VERY SHORT.

Only the big issues here in Boo's World. Listened to many an anthem that I couldn't distinguish from any other, but this one struck me as being very brief. Was it an error (an Israel game was infamous) or is it actually the Song 2 of national anthems?

WHERE'S HARRY KEWELL?

Some of the blokes selected are only just playing more regularly than he is. Should he be punished for having standards and not just settling for any club that is interested?

TOTO AD BOARD. Have Toto got a new album out, or are touring? It's been a long time since the heyday of Rosanna and Africa, but it is good to see them out promoting themselves.

POOR DEFENDING THWAITE. Don't hold hands with him, just head the bloody thing away. Get ball away = defending. That's what you are there for. Cornthwaite is the defender here to score goals. Unlucky with the bounce off the hands, couldn't



Marco Bresciano, just prior to going off injured, and Michael Thwaite in the background. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

have fallen for their bloke any better, but should have been dealt with. Early goal conceded means plenty of injuries and stretcher-time for the Omanis coming up.

HOLLAND - TURNOVER MACHINE. Is he going to find a team-mate tonight? Any chance at all? Is he better than this in Austria?

ANGRY BOZZA. First sight of the panel at half-time and you can see Mark Bosnich is fuming before he even speaks. This will be good. I hope Holger can deliver a half-time spray as well as I'd reckon Bozza would.

GLEN MUNSIE, THE FAT TOM WATERHOUSE. Give me some odds Glen. How much for Holland to be the first player hooked? Got a next Socceroo coach market framed yet?

SIMON HILL - THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! He uttered this after Oman went 2-0 up. And repeated it a few times in the aftermath. Now having heard him doing the commentary

in the first half, I assumed he may have been watching it. In which case, the goal should not have come as such a suprise. Australia were poor at the back and listless, Oman quick and lively. What was so hard to believe?

DON'T BREAK DOWN BRESC!

Two minutes after it is mentioned that all the Australian substitutes are sitting on the bench, none are warming up, Marco Bresciano is standing on the touchline about to come on. I hope he's properly warmed up, he's as injury prone as his mate Vinnie Grella nowadays.

So the cultural revolution and new national curriculum have yet to deliver anything that can top corners to Cahill. Game on. Bresc does break down, when his knee is jarred after having a shot blocked. Holman equalises. We need a winner, so Holger takes off the shining light of the younger brigade, Robbie Kruse



James Holland gets his foot a round the ball. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

for Archie Thompson. Archie and Robbie play well together, just like Archie and Marco Rojas are THE winning combination for Melbourne Victory, but for some reason Alex Brosque has to stay on so it is not to be.

The equaliser comes from Holman, but there is to be no winner. Maybe get Bozza off the panel, the anti-football media are set to pounce if he hits somebody. Holger, you are not as bad as Pim, but you are cut from the same cloth. If we are not buying from the top shelf in terms of international managers, wouldn't we rather look closer to home?

Elsewhere, it was a bad week for Melbourne Victory and Marshmallow Marco Flores, the softest player in the A-League. Like the Tin Man and bankers, the red Melbourne team don't have a heart. Any chance their players could show some urgency before the "too late" phase has

well and truly been entered?

Sydney Derby was an exciting draw. Sydney FC were doomed from the moment Brett Emerton didn't make the Socceroos squad and was therefore free to play for them. Suspensions and injuries now threaten to de-rail the Wanderers steam train in the Finals.

Until the Mariners players get paid, opposition teams really better keep their valuables under lock and key as they may soon start to get desperate. Any sub that heads back into the rooms to go to the toilet should be carefully monitored. The dramas of the week didn't stop them returning to form with a 2-0 defeat of Adelaide United though.

Looks like Phil Stubbins has been on seek.com to apply for the Wellington Phoenix coaching job (that's not a homage to Katsa's Korner, it's really on there). What they need is a pre-season training camp in Albury, make no mistake.

## SEPARATED AT BIRTH



Both of these men were prone to a late show the past week. TV talk show king pin David Letterman cans a few laughs from New York each night whilst Socceroo boss Holger Osieck had his own dramas show in Sydney.

Seen any uncanny doppelgangers lately?

Let us know on our facebook page and you could win a prize.

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

## A-League Champion 2012/13

West Sydney Wanderers	3.00
Central Coast Mariners	3.00
Melbourne Victory	6.00
Adelaide United	12.0
Brisbane Roar	12.0
Sydney FC	21.0
Perth Glory	21.0
Newcastle Jets	51.0
Melbourne Heart	N/A
Wellington Phoenix	N/A





# Refsworld

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**TAS**

**Walter Pless**

# Victory League kicks off in style in Tasmania

The inaugural Victory League season kicked off on Saturday and was a resounding success. The four games produced 24 goals and a total attendance of 1,445. The Victory League began with a double-header at Mitsubishi Park in Launceston featuring Devonport City versus Tilford Zebras, followed by Launceston City and Northern Rangers. Tilford Zebras' Alex Leszczynski scored the first-ever Victory League goal when he opened the scoring against Devonport after just 3 minutes. But, Zebras then went on to miss several golden chances and, although they led 1-0 at the interval, the eventually succumbed 5-2 to Devonport. Brayden Mann equalised for the North-West Coast side in the 51st minute before Leszczynski struck again in the 53rd minute to restore the Zebras' lead. Bobby Eaves made it 2-2 in



Tilford Zebras' Andrew Clark (left) comes away with the ball as team-mate Ricky Self lies on the ground and Devonport's Ben Foote tries to tackle. Photo by Walter Pless.

the 65th minute, while goals by Mann in the 71st minute, Daniel McGinn in the 84th and Kieran Mulraney in stoppage time sealed Devonport's 5-2 victory. The second feature was a formality as Northern Rangers cruised to a 5-0 triumph over Launceston City. Nick Lanau-Atkinson put Rangers ahead direct from a corner

in the 17th minute, while Shane Brassington, Rangers' English import, added a second three minutes before the break. Agele Luate made it 3-0 at the interval with a goal on the stroke of half-time. In the second half, strikes by Patrick Lanau-Atkinson and Brassington completed the scoring.

Back in Hobart, Olympia Warriors travelled to Lightwood Park at Kingston and handed Kingborough Lions United a 5-1 thrashing. Emmanuel Tsakiris netted twice, while Olympia's other goals came from Nick Meredith, Lachlan Nichols and Warren Wadawu. Cormac Collins scored Kingborough's consolation goal.

TAS Standings										
Northern Division										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P		
Northern Rangers	1	1	0	0	5	0	3			
Olympia Warriors	1	1	0	0	5	1	3			
Devonport City	1	1	0	0	5	2	3			
Glenorchy Knights	1	0	1	0	3	3	1			
South Hobart	1	0	1	0	3	3	1			
Tilford Zebras	1	0	0	1	2	5	0			
Kingborough Lions U	1	0	0	1	1	5	0			
Launceston City	1	0	0	1	0	5	0			

Victory League Round 1	
Devonport City v Tilford Zebras	
Launceston City 0-5 Northern Rangers	
Kingborough Lions 1-5 Olympia	
South Hobart 3-3 Glenorchy Knights	

On Sunday, the highly fancied South Hobart were held to a 3-3 draw at home by Glenorchy Knights in an exciting match. Chris Hunt gave South Hobart a 1-0 lead at the break before Jal David, a former South Hobart player, equalised 7 minutes after the resumption. Aaron Marney then shocked South Hobart by putting the visitors in front on the hour, but Cameron Williams made it 2-2 with a header in the 64th minute. Knights looked to have won the game when Jeremy Marshall made it 3-2 in the 74th minute and after South had Williams sent off near the end, but Kostas Kanakaris popped up with a equaliser 2 minutes from time.

**Coming Soon!!**

**The Goal! Weekly Annual**

**OUT MAY 2013**





**WA**

**Peter Simcox**

**Armadale Takes The Early Lead**

Armadale surged to the top of the WA Premier League following a dramatic 3-2 victory over Cockburn City at Dalmatinac Park. New signing Dannie Richman honoured his first outing for the Reds by grabbing a stoppage time winner after goals by Ravi Kuppusamy and Mark Peers were cancelled out by Jack Eades' first half double. "It's a great result, it was a good game, entertaining for the spectators and (we're) happy to get three points," said winning coach Lee Bamber, who isn't about to get carried away by his teams' undefeated start to the season. "If we're going to be top of the league I'd rather it be in September, not in March." Former Blackburn Rovers and Perth Glory defender Andy Todd made his league debut for Armadale and was happy with the win. "It's always nice to win games no matter what level



Bayswater midfielder Todd Howarth and Inglewood midfielder Daniel Thomson in action.

you're at," he said. "Obviously we went 2-0 up and I think Cockburn were probably a better footballing team, but obviously we've dug deep to get a very good win against a decent team." James Isaia continued Bayswater City's perfect start to the new season by scoring late to secure a 2-1 win over Inglewood United at Frank Drago Reserve. Gustavo

Giron-Marulanda converted the opened goal from the penalty spot after Todd Howarth was brought down by Rikki Smith only for Greg Sharland to send the teams into the break on level terms. It looked as though that would be the end of the scoring when substitute Isaia popped up just minutes from the final whistle.

Stirling Lions recovered from conceding two early goals to run out 4-2 winners over ECU Joondalup at the Edith Cowan University campus. It looked like being a good day for the home side after Tony Taylor and Andy Higgins put them two-up inside 20 minutes, however, quick goals from Gareth McGlynn and Dean Evans brought the sides level

WA Standings										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P		
1 Armadale SC	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6		
2 Stirling Lions	2	2	0	0	6	3	3	6		
3 Bayswater City	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6		
4 Sorrento	2	1	1	0	8	1	7	4		
5 Perth SC	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3		
6 ECU Joondalup	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3		
7 Floreat Athena	2	0	2	0	3	3	0	2		
8 Inglewood United	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1		
9 Bunbury Force	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1		
10 Balcatta	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1		
11 FW NTC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
12 Cockburn City	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	0		

before Matt Harold and Rory Grant settled things after the turnaround. A late goal by former Motherwell defender Steve McDonald has seen a ten-man Sorrento salvage a 1-1 draw against Balcatta at Percy Doyle Reserve. The visitors missed a penalty early in the second half, Ashley Rosindale seeing his spot kick saved by Curtis Aspdren, after Sorrento defender Razack Geloo was issued his marching orders. McDonald made it five goals in eight days by netting just minutes from the end to cancel out Mikey Aspin's stunning strike midway through the second period. Bunbury Forum Force picked up their first point of the season by stealing a 2-2 draw from Floreat Athena at Litis Stadium. The only goal of an entertaining first half arrived via home captain

All Flags State League Premier Division ROUND 2:	
Sorrento 1 Balcatta 1, Perth Sc 4 Football West Ntc Men 1, Bayswater City 2 Inglewood United 1, Floreat Athena 2 Bunbury Forum Force 2, Ecu Joondalup 2 Stirling Lions 4, Cockburn City 2 Armadale 3	
All Flags State League Premier Division Reserves ROUND 2:	
Sorrento 5 Balcatta 1, Perth 3 Football West Ntc Men 2, Bayswater City 2 Inglewood United 4, Floreat Athena 4 Bunbury Forum Force 1, Ecu Joondalup 2 Stirling Lions 4, Cockburn City 3 Armadale 2	
All Flags State League Premier Division 18s ROUND 2:	
Sorrento 3 Balcatta 0, Perth SC 11 Football West NTC Men 1, Bayswater City 3 Inglewood United 1, Floreat Athena 0 Bunbury Forum Force 1, ECU Joondalup 3 Stirling Lions 2, Cockburn City 2 Armadale 1	

Mark Pritchard and it looked to be 'game over' when Benny Kovadio doubled the difference just minutes into the second half. English import Chris Blackburn cut that deficit but it wasn't until deep in stoppage time that Aaron Brittain restored parity. In the final game Perth Soccer Club scored their first win of the new season by downing the National Training Centre 4-1 at Dorrien Gardens, Daniel Micevski and David Micevski scoring twice.

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**VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR**

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Goal! Weekly - Friday 29th March 2013



# Couch Potato



\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



Monday 1st April  
02:55 am Liverpool TV

Thursday 4th April  
06:00 am Liverpool TV - Aston Villa v Liverpool

Friday 29th March  
06:00 am Liverpool TV



FRIDAY 29TH MARCH  
Bundesliga Round 27 Preview Show  
7:00pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH  
npower Championship Round 39  
Crystal Palace v Birmingham 4:25am **LIVE**  
npower Championship Round 39  
Leicester v Millwall 6:40am **LIVE**  
Scottish Division 3 Round 32  
Montrose v Rangers 10:55pm **LIVE**

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH  
Bundesliga Round 27 Stuttgart v Dortmund 1:25am **LIVE**  
Bundesliga Round 27 Bayern Munich v Hamburg 4:25am **LIVE**  
Primera Division Round 7  
River Plate v Velez 8:05am **LIVE**  
npower Championship Round 39  
Nottm Forest v Brighton 10:35am 1st Airing

Bundesliga Round 27 Fortuna v Leverkusen 12:25pm 1st Airing  
npower Championship Round 39 Huddersfield v Hull 5:05pm 1st Airing  
Scottish Premier League Round 32 St Mirren v Celtic 10:40pm **LIVE**

MONDAY 1ST APRIL  
Bundesliga Round 27 Greuther v Frankfurt 2:25am **LIVE**  
Primera Division Round 7 Teams TBC  
6:20am 1st Airing  
Eredivisie Round 28 Heerenveen v Feyenoord 8:10am 1st Airing  
Eredivisie Round 28 Ajax v NEC  
10:00am 1st Airing  
Eredivisie Round 28 Roda v PSV  
3:20pm 1st Airing  
Bundesliga Round 27 Wolfsburg v Nuremberg 5:10pm 1st Airing  
npower League One Round 42 Doncaster v Swindon 10:10pm **LIVE**

TUESDAY 2ND APRIL  
npower Championship Round 40 Birmingham v Wolves 12:55am **LIVE**  
npower Championship Round 40 Leeds v Derby 3:00am **LIVE**  
Scottish Premier League Round 32 St Johnstone v Dundee United 5:55am **LIVE**

THURSDAY 4TH APRIL  
Copa Libertadores Matchday 6 Atletico Mineiro v Arsenal 11:50am **LIVE**

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL  
UEFA Europa League Quarter-Final 1st Leg Tottenham v Basel 5:55am **LIVE**  
UEFA Europa League Quarter-Final 1st Leg Chelsea v Rubin Kazan 8:00am 1st Airing  
UEFA Europa League Quarter-Final 1st Leg Benfica v Newcastle 9:50am 1st Airing  
UEFA Europa League Quarter-Final 1st Leg Fenerbahce v Lazio 11:40am 1st Airing  
Bundesliga Round 28 Preview Show  
8:00pm 1st Airing



SBS ONE  
Sunday March 31st  
4:00 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Monday April 1st  
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial  
11:00 pm The World Game

Wednesday April 3rd  
5:30 am UEFA Champions League - Quarter-final Leg Bayern Munich v Juventus

Thursday April 4th  
5:30 am UEFA Champions League - Quarter-final Real Madrid v Galatasaray

11:05 pm UEFA Champions League Hour  
- All the highlights from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League

SBS TWO  
Wednesday April 3rd  
8:30 pm UEFA Champions League - A replay of this morning's Quarter-final (1st Leg) match.

Thursday April 4th  
7:30 pm UEFA Champions League Hour  
- All the highlights from the latest round of the UEFA Champions League

Friday April 5th  
7:30 pm UEFA Europa League Highlights - All the highlights from the latest round of the UEFA Europa League.



ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE **LIVE**

Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

English Premier League  
Sat Mar 30 Sunderland v Manchester United  
11.38 pm Fox 3  
Sun Mar 31 Manchester City v Newcastle  
1.53 am Fox 1  
Sun Mar 31 Arsenal v Reading  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Mar 31 Southampton v Chelsea  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Mar 31 Swansea v Tottenham  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Mar 31 Wigan v Norwich  
1.53 am Viewers Choice  
Sun Mar 31 West Ham v West Brom  
9.00 am Fox 3 (DELAY)  
Sun Mar 31 Everton v Stoke  
4.23 am Fox 3  
Sun Mar 31 Aston Villa v Liverpool  
11.23 pm Fox 3  
Tue Apr 2 Fulham v QPR  
5.53 am Fox 1

Hyundai A-League  
All games **LIVE**

Thu Mar 28 Brisbane v Sydney  
8.00 pm Fox 2  
Fri Mar 29 Newcastle v Western Sydney  
5.30 pm Fox 3  
Sat Mar 30 Central Coast v Melbourne Heart  
5.30 pm Fox 3  
Sat Mar 30 Perth v Adelaide  
9.45pm Fox 1  
Sun Mar 31 Wellington v Melbourne  
2.30 pm Fox 3

Hyundai A-League Finals - Week 1  
Fri Apr 5 Elimination Final No 1  
7.30 pm Fox 2  
Sun Apr 7 Elimination Final No 2  
5.00 pm Fox 2

Asian Champions League  
Wednesday 3 April  
Central Coast v Guizhou Renhe  
7.00 pm Fox 2

FOX SPORTS FC  
Every Tuesday  
8.30 pm

# Round 27: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT

Roar (5) SFC (1) Draw (2) - Jets (3) Wanderers (3) Draw (2) - Mariners (8) Heart (0) Draw (0) - Glory (8) Adelaide (0) Draw (0) - Phoenix (0) Victory (5) Draw (3)

**SANTO CILAURO** **60**

Roar  
Jets  
CCM  
Perth  
Victory

Last week: 1



**CRAIG MACKENZIE** **59**

Roar  
Wanderers  
Mariners  
Glory  
Draw

Last week: 1



**EDDIE KRNEVIC** **56**

Draw  
Draw  
Mariners  
Glory  
Draw

Last week: 1



**PETER KATHOLOS** **56**

Sydney  
Newcastle  
Mariners  
Perth  
Victory

Last week: 2



**ROGER SLEEMAN** **66**

Roar  
Wanderers  
Mariners  
Glory  
Victory

Last week: 2



**ANDY HARPER** **53**

Draw  
Newie  
Mariners  
Perth  
Draw

Last week: 2



**JOHN DOYLE** **57**

Roar  
Wanderers  
Mariners  
Glory  
Victory

Last week: 1



**KISS OF DEATH** **62**

Roar  
Draw  
Mariners  
Glory  
Victory

Last week: 2



## New-Look Hume Look To Regain Finals Berth



NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES  
**VPL COUNTDOWN**

BRANDON GALGANO takes an insider's view into the lives of the Victorian Premier League clubs as they prepare for the upcoming 2013 season.

Club: Hume City FC  
VPL Titles: Nil  
Position Last Season: 9TH  
Coach: Lupce Acevski

2012 was a year of contrasting emotions for the Hume City faithful. Off the park, the newly refurbished John Illhan Memorial Reserve has taken shape with the multi million dollar refurbishment of facilities highlighting one of the many culture changes which have taken place at the club, one which has struggled for adequate playing and training fields over recent seasons. The once tumultuous playing surface has been re-laid over the off season with the pitch now in good condition coming up to the big kickoff in a little under two weeks time. Things didn't exactly go to plan last campaign for Hume City with the senior side coming in at 9th on the table with only 8 wins for the season whilst scoring only 27 goals all year, the third lowest for the competition. Following on from a disappointing campaign 2013 will be a season of great expectation for the club as, with the newly developed precinct, top class training and playing facilities along with a newly assembled squad there will surely be no more room for error at the club this season.

**Who's out?**

Following the disappointing 2012 campaign club favourite Richard Cardozo has signed with Rochdale City Suns in the NSW Premier League. This comes as a major loss to the first team with the former Australian Youth international a



The 2013 Victorian Premier League season kicks-off on Friday 5 April.

Former Notts County striker Sean Canham will be looking to terrorise VPL defenders this season.

prominent figure at the club over recent seasons. Mark Leech has also moved on from the club over the off season with the former Southern Stars man returning to his native Ireland with Shelbourne FC. Experienced midfielder Pece Siveski is another to have left the club following the expiration of his contract with the former Altona Magic man moving onto Sunshine George Cross in State League One for the 2013 season.

**Who's in?**

**Manager Lupce Acevski** has been busy over the off season with the former goalkeeper making seven signings over the off season to the first team squad. These new faces include: **Sean Canham:** The former Notts County man played under manager Sven Goran Eriksson during a ten year professional career in England and the striker will be looking to pick up where former favourite Richard Cardozo left off in the goal scoring department in 2013. **Alan Mulcahy:** The former Southern Stars captain will look to bolster Hume's midfield stocks in 2013 following a successful last few seasons out at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

**Sait Guler:** The defender also joins from Southern stars following a solid debut VPL season in 2012. The young centre half had a successful trial in Turkey a few years back only for issues with attaining a VISA halting the deal. Will look to build a partnership with prominent City duo Steven Pace and Issy Erdogan in 2013.

**Dakota Lucas:** The right Winger/Striker joins from Sunshine Coast Fire in the Queensland Premier League and will hope to show the form which saw him selected in New Zealand's Olympics squad with his only appearance coming against Brazil in the 2012 tournament. **Deejay Firth:** The central midfielder is another former Sunshine Coast Fire signing with the young midfielder even training with various A-League clubs over the offseason. Certainly one to watch out for over the upcoming campaign.

**Craig Sives:** The 26 year old centre back has played at the highest level in Scotland and Ireland and following a stint at Shamrock Rovers has made the move down under for the 2013 campaign. A huge signing for the club with experience beyond his years.

**Josh Knight:** The midfielder signs on from Port Talbot town in

Wales and will look to add some flair to a regimented Hume side this campaign.

With the already experienced faces around the club in captain and club legend Steven Pace as well as an abundance of fresh young talent at the club coupled with an array of important signings, Hume City will certainly be looking towards finals football in 2013. Under the guidance of an experienced management team and with one of the best training set ups in Victoria, 2013 can only be one of great potential for a side who have somewhat stalled over recent seasons. Whether that potential is finally met will be the real question coming into a new era at the club.

**In Other News....**

- South Melbourne FC has defeated Altona Magic 2-1 in an entertaining match. The winning goal, coming from veteran Andy Vlahos, was scored in the 87th minute.

- Dandenong Thunder have pulled off a major upset, defeating the Melbourne Victory 3-1 in a practise match last weekend with Nate Foster, Shane Rexhapi and Feston Azizi all getting on the scoresheet.

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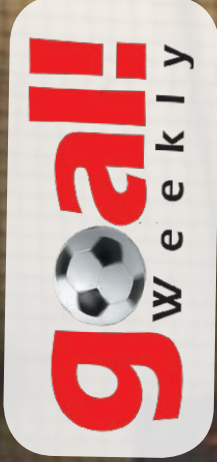




# F0z Cup Winners 2012/13



PHOTO: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Goal! Weekly - Friday 29th March 2013

The victorious Ashburton FC with the 2012/13 F0z Cup.  
Back Row: (L to R) Lucas Kruei, Moe Matta, Con Makris, Ben Geaboc (Coach), Julien Afonseca, Michele Giotta, Matteo Rocca, Richard Ferguson.  
Front Row: Andrea Farina, Alex Arregin, Mohamed Alghorabi, Robert Armellini, Lorenzo De Paris.

# ASHBURTON FC

F0z Cup Details	
Ashburton FC 6	(R. Armellini 2, M. Rocca, Alex Arragin 2, L. De Paris) def.
Hume FC 5	(V. Mazurskiy 4, S. Cicek) After Extra Time
MVP:	Lorenzo De Paris (Ashburton FC)
Golden Boot:	Vadim Mazurskiy (Hume - 9 Goals)



# V-LEAGUE

Premiership

**We Love Futsal**

# Ashburton defeats Hume to win FOz Cup

Ashburton FC has been crowned 2012/13 FOz Cup champions on Sunday in front of a capacity crowd at Futsal Oz in Brunswick. The new one day structure meant that teams would need to win 3 games to be crowned champions and with the top 8 clubs all involved from the Nike V-League it was always going to be a great day of Futsal.

It really is true what they say, the best is saved for last, and that was the scenario surrounding the 2012/13 FOz Cup Final between Ashburton Futsal Club and Hume Futsal Club. After both teams went into their semi finals with an 'underdog' status pinned above their heads - against Pascoe Vale and Vic Vipers respectively - and came out surprise winners, there were many who wondered if both teams could back up their impressive and energy-sapping wins. They certainly proved all those doubters wrong going right past the pain barrier in the search for cup glory. A truly amazing spectacle displayed by all involved, and will probably go down as one of the most dramatic finals ever played at the Futsal Oz Stadium.

To open proceedings in the first half, Ashburton came out of the blocks firing, continuing their red-hot form from their semi final racing to a 3-1 lead. Goals from Robert Armellini, Matteo Rocca and Alex Arregin put the 'Green Machine' firmly in control. Hume on the other hand were desperately trying to stay in striking distance, luckily Vadim Mazurskiy came to his sides aid with a handy hat-trick, two of his goals were from the fifth foul penalty spot which were world class strikes - well they had to be to get past Ashburton keeper Lorenzo De Paris who was in world class form! So by the end of the first half Hume had completely turned their fortunes around as momentum was well and truly in their favour.

The second half saw both sides take a much more conservative approach to the game, aiming to avoid a defensive meltdown - as both experienced in the first half. It was neck and neck the whole way, until key Ashburton squad members, Matteo Rocca and Lucas Kruel became injured and taken off (knee and severe cramp the respective causes) much to the delight of the Hume squad. Sensing that this was their best time to strike, Hume threw everything at the nervous Ashburton defence and it was a move which eventually paid off, Vadim Mazurskiy scoring a late goal past De Paris to make it 4-3. But just like a mid-day drama there was plenty more written in this script.

With time fast ticking away, Ashburton resorted to playing the 'fly keeper' tactic, a last ditch effort to stay in the game which payed dividends, De Paris scoring a sizzling goal from the side line to equalise at 4-4 with only minutes until full time. This encounter was destined for extra time and only time would tell which squad could go the distance - Ashburton losing key players during and before the game (Richie Ferguson, Rocca and Kruel all injured) and Hume



Ashburton FC lift the FOz Cup trophy. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Lucas Kruel of Ashburton FC controls the ball under pressure from Hume FC's Resit Culculglu. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS



Ashburton FC during a timeout in the Final of the 2012/13 FOz Cup. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

had not taken off their defensive pairing (Resit Culculglu and George Harrison) for a second.

By the time extra time came around it was fair to say that both squads looked a little worse for wear, at this stage it wasn't about fitness or stamina, it was all down to who wanted it more, who was more determined and who believed they could reign supreme. Just as they did in the second half, Hume broke the dead-lock to really take the game by the scruff of the neck. Sacid Cicek capped off a well worked counter attack to catch the Ashburton defence off guard, easily

slotting past De Paris. The instruction from this point on from manager Amin Keddad was to 'shut up shop' and hold on for dear life. The game was yet in the Hume Army's favour. But somehow Ashburton found a way back, cool calm and collected, the Green Machine lads kept possession and passed their way through the Hume defence, Alex Arregin walking the ball into the back of the net to equalise yet again. With hardly any time remaining on the clock, it certainly became a case of whoever scored the next goal were going home with the title, and with momentum now

heavily in Ashburton's favour, the Green Machine continued their silky passing and pressing game to tire the ragged Hume lads even further in the hope of a breakthrough. A tactic which eventually paid off although in dramatic and controversial circumstances! Robert Armellini, who also had played a large portion of the game had a last-ditch strike from distance which beat Hume stopper Fethi Goren and cannoned off the underside of the crossbar and over the line to win the game!

Ashburton, jubilant. Hume, distraught. The crowd in awe of what they had just witnessed. Both had given everything

they had to the point of exhaustion! It was almost criminal that one team had to go home empty handed, but that's they way the game goes and thats why we see games like this. Desire. It was a brilliant spectacle for the V-League and for the sport of Futsal in general. This sport is growing and at a rapid rate, the gap between Pascoe Vale and the Vic Vipers has now been closed and thats due to the dedication of both of these squads all involved should give themselves a massive pat on the back! It



Ashburton FC's Italian regazzi in a Kodak moment with the FOz Cup. From left, Andrea Farina, Matteo Rocca, Michele Giotta, Robert Armellini. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

## FOz Cup 2012/13 Results

**Round 1**

Pascoe Vale Futsal Club 9 (S. Soufi 2, S. Sefil 2, J. Da Silva 2, J. Portillo, A. Caro, A. Apotolakis (OG)) def. Brunswick Futsal Club 3 (D. Van Reyk 2, D. Duva)

Vic Vipers Futsal Club 6 (M. Barrigos 2, A. Cooper, H. Tran, K. Barrientos, Jon. Barrientos) def. Fitzroy Futsal Club 3 (E. Huynh 2, A. Mesinovic)

Ashburton Futsal Club 10 (R. Ferguson 2, J. Afon-seca 2, M. Matar 2, M. Rocca, M. Giotta, A. Arregin, L. Kruel) def. Metropolitan Futsal Club (A. Alicevic 2, A. Redzepovic)

Hume Futsal Club 8 (V. Mazurskiy 3, G. Harrison 2, M. Vragovski 2, R. Culculoglu) def. Moreland Futsal Club 3 (R. Parker 2, S. Akyol)

**Semi Final**

Pascoe Vale Futsal Club 0 lost to. Ashburton Futsal Club 2 (L. Kruel, A. Farina)

Vic Vipers Futsal Club 2 (A. Cooper, M. Barrigos) lost to. Hume Futsal Club 4 (V. Mazurskiy 2, M. Vragovski, S. Cicek)

**Final**

Ashburton FC 6 (R. Armalini 2, M. Rocca, Alex Ar-ragin 2, L. De Paris) def. Hume FC 5 (V. Mazurskiy 4, S. Cicek) – After Extra Time

hasn't been easy but the former "top two" should really sit up and take notice of these two up and coming teams. The upcoming 2013 season has just got interesting.

Next up is the FAFL Cup with teams from all over Australia taking place on the 6th & 7th April for more details check out [www.futsaloz.com.au](http://www.futsaloz.com.au)

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## Blast From The Past



By Roy Hay

World Cup qualification for Brazil in 2014 is well under way with some surprises in recent matches including Japan's loss to Jordan in Australia's group and the Socceroo's narrow escape from defeat by Oman. The year 2005 was also a year of qualification matches this time for the tournament to be held in Germany in 2006. It was also the first season of the A-League in this country and Liverpool came back from the dead to beat AC Milan in the European Champions League final on penalties, with Harry Kewell playing a short and controversial part in the match.

Among the players, the Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho came of age in 2005 winning both World and European player of the year awards by a huge margin from some excellent contemporaries including Frank Lampard, Steve Gerrard and Thierry Henry. Even the Real Madrid crowd gave him a standing ovation when he destroyed Real with its Galacticos, including David Beckham and Zinedine Zidane, at the Bernabeu in November. Barcelona also had one to watch in Lionel Messi, star of the World Youth Cup, who was already cutting it in the Primera Liga. The young Argentine was already so good he was not being described as the next Maradona but the first

Lionel Messi. In England, Wayne Rooney had a mercurial year with some stunning performances for club and country, but he could not help Manchester United qualify for the knock-out stages of the Champions League.

The highlight of the Australian year was of course the gut-wrenching penalty shoot-out victory over Uruguay at the Telstra Stadium in Sydney in November. Guus Hiddink reinforced his reputation as a lucky coach since it was only because he had used three outfield substitutes already that he was unable to swap Zeljko Kalac for Mark Schwarzer in extra-time as penalties loomed. Instead of sitting on the bench it was Schwarzer who saved the penalties that allowed John Aloisi to fulfill his and all Australian dreams with the final kick. When the draw for the final groups was made, Australia found that its opponents would be Japan, Brazil and then Croatia.

Sydney FC represented Australia in the club world cup as champion of Oceania. A single goal loss to Costa Rican side CD Saprissa was followed by a two-one win over Al Ahli from Egypt to claim fifth spot in this curious competition. Liverpool and Sao Paulo played off in the final and the South Americans got an early goal and held on to win after Liverpool had three goals disallowed and missed a barrowload of chances. While the Australian press thought that Sydney FC did well to finish in 5th place, the overseas writers were highly condemnatory of the standard of the also-rans in the ersatz tournament, which has not really developed the game in any meaningful way.

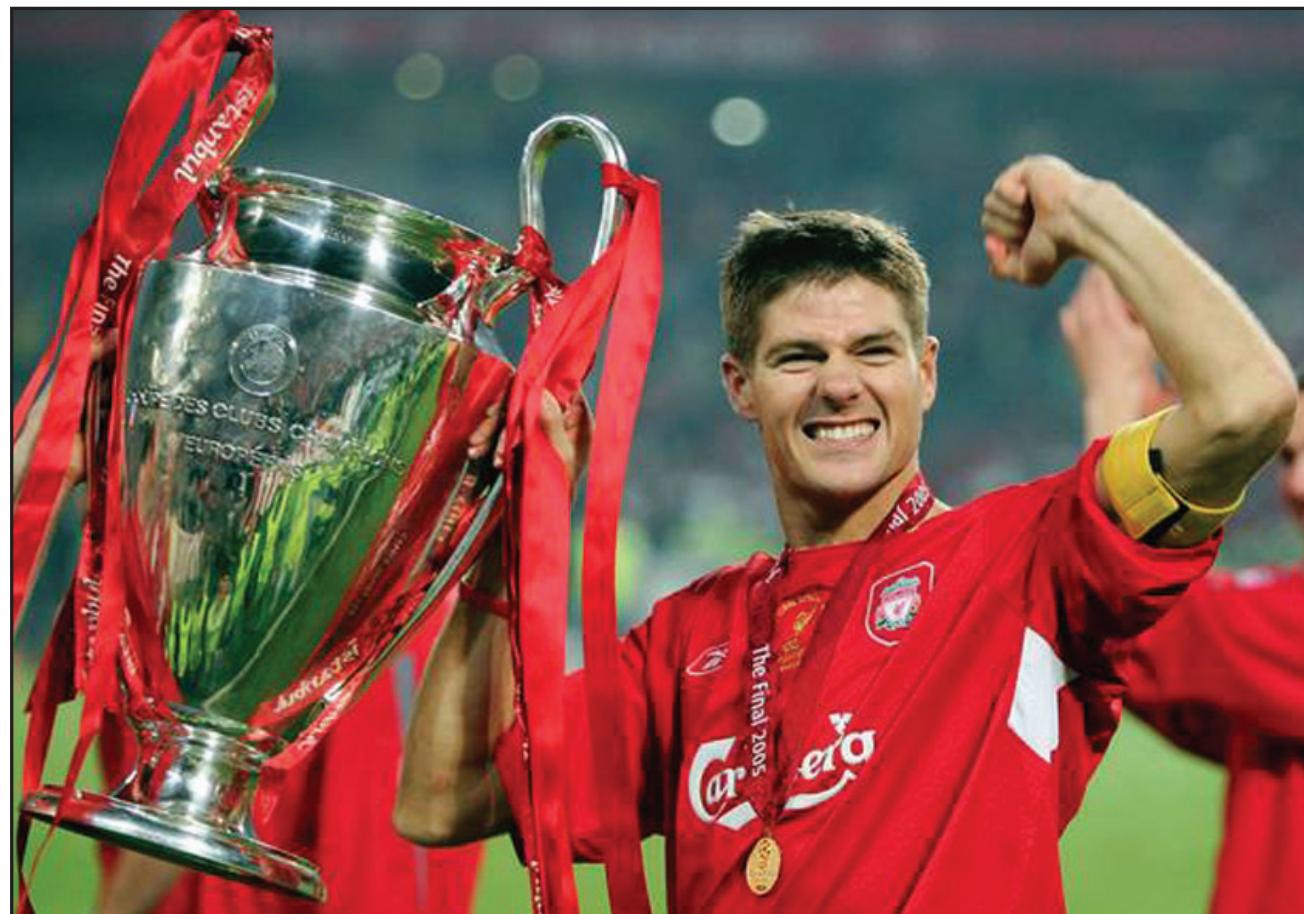
The start of the A-League was very significant for Australia, and the long awaited move from the Oceania to the Asian Confederation of FIFA were the other two most important events affecting the game in this country. Sydney FC with its marquee star Dwight Yorke drew most of the headlines, despite a five-nil



Schwarzer saves a critical penalty.

Source: Mark Schwarzer. My World Cup diary.

# The World of Football in 2005



Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard with the Champions League trophy after an epic final against AC Milan. The Reds came back from 3-0 down to draw the match and went on to win on penalties.



All the talk was about the bling, but marquee signing and former Manchester United star Dwight Yorke delivered for Sydney FC as it went on to defeat Mariners 1-0 in the first ever HAL Grand Final.

demolition by Melbourne Victory in November. Yorke was instrumental in Trinidad and Tobago's qualification for the World Cup, while the three African qualifiers were Togo, Angola and the Ivory Coast, not the usual heavyweights.

In England there were stories that the new Wembley stadium and its Australian constructor Multiplex were in trouble with cost overruns and technical problems, but in the end it turned out to be a superb stadium. Scott McDonald scored not once but twice for Motherwell in the last few minutes of the final match of

the season in Scotland to deny Celtic a league championship it had dominated. Poor Scott was never able to replicate his scoring prowess for the Socceroos, though I still think he should have been paired with Josh Kennedy with whom he had played as a Joey when the Under-17s reached their World Cup final in New Zealand in 1999.

My summary of 2005 written at the time put it down as a good not a great year, but the expectation that 2006 would be a great won highlighted by the World Cup in Germany was to be more than fulfilled.



2005 was also the year Goal! Weekly first rolled off the press with the aim to fill the vacuum in football dedicated print media.

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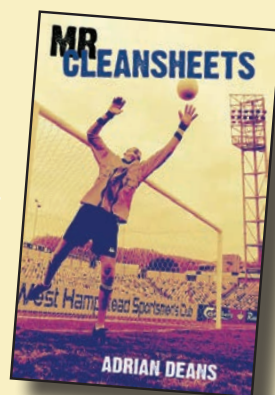
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# The Road To Rio Gets Closer



## Latin Wrap

By Francis Fields

**CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying wrap: Ecuador thrash Paraguay**

Ecuador moved into second place in the CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying standings with a 4-1 victory over Paraguay on Tuesday.

With leaders Argentina held to a 1-1 draw in Bolivia earlier in the day, Ecuador leapfrogged Colombia into second place with their big win.

But they were behind early at the Estadio Olimpico Atahualpa in Quito when Luis Caballero netted for the Paraguayans in the 15th minute.

Felipe Caicedo restored parity seven minutes before the interval, and after the break it was all Ecuador.

Jefferson Montero made it 2-1 five minutes into the second half, and Cristian Benitez doubled the advantage four minutes later.

Montero's second goal 15 minutes from the end saw Ecuador take a comfortable win over the bottom side, and pulled them within four points of Argentina.

Colombia relinquished second spot when they lost 1-0 to Venezuela, with a goal from Jose Salomon Rondon the difference between the sides.

Chile climbed to fourth spot thanks to their 2-0 win over Uruguay in Santiago.

Esteban Paredes scored 10 minutes in, and Eduardo Vargas doubled their lead 12 minutes from the end.

Chile are in fourth place ahead of Venezuela, with both sides on 15 points, while Uruguay are two points behind in sixth place.

**Sabella pleased with tough point**

Alejandro Sabella has hailed his Argentina players for overcoming the effects of playing at high altitude in a 1-1 draw with Bolivia.

Argentina trailed in the World Cup qualifier following a Marcelo Moreno header midway through the first half, but a point was secured at the Hernando Siles - 3,637 metres above sea level - thanks to Ever Banega's equaliser on the cusp of half-time.

"It was a great game and our performance in the last 25 minutes alone deserved a win. The group of players who produced this good result will have become stronger," Sabella said after the match.

"But we must go slowly and think about the difficult games that lie ahead, even if we have a big chance of qualifying (for the World Cup finals in Brazil).

"These matches have proved that I have a tightly-knitted bunch who



Argentina managed to escape from a high altitude Bolivian encounter with a 1-1 draw.

are consolidating themselves, but the others are also working very hard to make my task of (choosing a 23-man squad) even more difficult."

**Scolari sees Brazil improvement**  
Brazil head coach Luiz Felipe Scolari has insisted his side are on the right path after a 1-1 friendly draw with Russia in London on Monday.

The South Americans needed a last-gasp goal from Fluminense attacker Fred to salvage something against Fabio Capello's men in their Stamford Bridge clash.

Scolari remains without a win in his second stint as Brazil boss - last week's Italy draw and February's defeat to England have been his only other games to date - but he was determined to put on a brave face and look at the positives in recent matches.

He told reporters: "I think that from the game against Italy to this on here we kept the same level, but we were playing against a well-organised team.

"They are one of the 54 (53) European countries trying to qualify for the World Cup. They kept the ball quite well and because of a lot of factors we maybe let that goal in because they marked higher than the Italians and pressed too.

"But what I really liked was that towards the end our team had a good reaction. They didn't get desperate, they kept their heads and worked the ball and scored the goal.

"We haven't evolved as much as from the England game to the Italy game, but we are on the right path. Everybody knows there are no shortcuts for success. You need to go in stages.

"We have to go through every stage to reach the final goal. In each stage we try to add some small improvements - someone comes in, someone changes position etc."

Argentina sit top of CONMEBOL qualification in Brazil's absence and Scolari praised his nation's perennial rivals as well as Radamel Falcao's Colombia, who have been looking sharp in recent games.

"Argentina are always a good team, they have great players," the former Chelsea boss added. "Colombia always replacing their players with good ones like James (Rodriguez), (Radamel) Falcao and (Jackson) Martinez coming through - that is why they are doing well."

Scolari also dismissed suggestions the World Cup 2014 host nation's supporters have lost faith in the national team, and highlighted the importance of building a strong morale ahead of this summer's Confederations Cup.

"I believe that we already have the support and the trust of the Brazilian fans," the coach continued.

"All we need to do is continue to work with the group. For the Confederations Cup we are going to have a strong, compact group.

"The fans can be sure that they will have a very recognisable group that they will be happy with."

Brazil midfielder Kaka said they were left disappointed they couldn't secure the win, despite taking 90 minutes just to score once.

"I think wanting the victory comes naturally, of course it bothers us, we want to win, but I think that comes naturally," the Real Madrid star said.

"We had a match against Italy, where we were winning for 2-0, and a bad taste was left in our mouth with the final result (they drew 2-2).

"But today was different, we started losing and we felt better when we scored at the end. So, there is little detail that must be corrected, but I think that Brazil is on the right path."

Brazil's next game is against Chile on April 24.

**CONCACAF World Cup qualifying wrap: Panama go top**

Panama jumped to the top of the CONCACAF World Cup qualifying standings with a 2-0 win over Honduras in Panama City.

Luis Tejada put the home side ahead in the second minute and Blas Perez extended their advantage with a second goal on 75 minutes.

Panama lead the group with five points from three games ahead of Honduras and Costa Rica, who defeated Jamaica 2-0.

The loss continued Jamaica's winless start to qualifying for Brazil 2014.

Michael Umana opened the scoring from close range on 22 minutes and Diego Calvo made sure of the points in San Jose with a second in the 82nd minute.

The United States played out a goalless draw with Mexico.

**Tabarez retains qualification hope**

Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez insists his side still have what it takes to reach the World Cup despite their 2-0 defeat to Chile on Tuesday.

Goals from Esteban Paredes and former Napoli striker Eduardo Vargas dealt a further blow to Uruguay's aspirations of making next year's finals in Brazil, but the veteran coach is in no mood to throw in the towel.

"It is true that the situation is very complicated, but we are very clear about our objectives and we have to keep fighting because our own experience tells us that we must fight to the end," Tabarez told reporters.

"But it is true that we have fewer games left and are further behind. We are fighting for fourth place but we cannot ignore fifth either. We have to be real and self-critical of ourselves.



Brazil draws with 1-1 Russia in London.



Colombia keeps up the pace for a spot at Brazil 2014.

"Obviously, we are not happy and more than worried. I thought that the losing streak was over after the match against Poland (in November), but it was not. "We know it is very difficult at the moment, but we will devote ourselves to finding the solutions."

Luis Suarez could face retrospective punishment from FIFA after aiming a punch at Gonzalo Jara in the first half, but Tabarez insists the incident had no bearing on the result on the day.

"There is nothing we can do now so it is not worth speaking about referees. I do not want to pick out individual incidents, but for me there was a clear hand (on Jara)," he said.

"After the game I went onto the pitch because I feared that my players would protest (the decision). But I cannot say that this made us lose the match because in the first 15 minutes Chile were much better."

Tabarez blamed Uruguay's inability to claim a result on poor defensive organisation - namely in the build-up to Chile's first goal - and a failure to maintain their momentum when searching for a route back into the match.

"We made mistakes. The first 15 minutes of the game did not go well. Chile spread the ball around and found lots of space. That was the source of our problems," the ex-AC Milan and Cagliari boss added.

"It's true that the first goal came from Chile finding space but it wasn't a goal until the net became gaping. Then, little by little, we began to build something, but it wasn't to be.

"We did not think that they were

going to steal the victory like it happened the other day with Paraguay. Yet after just 15 minutes, we already made too many mistakes and it became difficult."

## WC Qualifiers

### South America

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Argentina	11	7	3	1	24	8	+16	24
2 Ecuador	10	6	2	2	16	10	+6	20
3 Colombia	10	6	1	3	19	7	+12	19
4 Chile	11	5	0	6	16	19	-3	15
5 Venezuela	11	4	3	4	9	12	-3	15
6 Uruguay	11	3	4	4	17	21	-4	13
7 Peru	10	3	2	5	11	15	-4	11
8 Bolivia	11	2	3	6	13	20	-7	9
9 Paraguay	11	2	2	7	8	21	-13	8

### Results

Paraguay 1 - 0 Peru  
Chile 1 - 2 Argentina  
Colombia 5 - 0 Bolivia  
Uruguay 1 - 1 Paraguay  
Argentina 3 - 0 Venezuela  
Peru 1 - 0 Chile  
Bolivia 1 - 1 Argentina  
Ecuador 4 - 1 Paraguay  
Chile 2 - 0 Uruguay  
Venezuela 1 - 0 Colombia

### North America

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Panama	3	1	2	0	5	3	+2	5
2 Costa Rica	3	1	1	1	4	3	+1	4
3 United States	3	1	1	1	2	2	+0	4
4 Honduras	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
5 Mexico	3	0	3	0	2	2	+0	3
6 Jamaica	3	0	2	1	1	3	-2	2

### Results

Honduras 2 - 2 Mexico  
Jamaica 1 - 1 Panama  
Costa Rica  
United States 1 - 0 Costa Rica  
Panama 2 - 0 Honduras  
Costa Rica 2 - 0 Jamaica  
Mexico 0 - 0 United States



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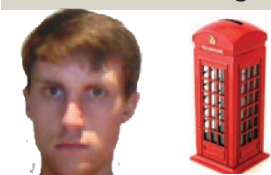
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## London Calling



By Samuel Collins

"We've got to believe we can do it."

If Nigel Adkins is to extend Reading's stay in the Premier League beyond just a solitary campaign, you sense they'll need more than just belief. The former Southampton coach was put in charge of the Berkshire club on Tuesday morning, two weeks after owner Anton Zingarevich had sanctioned the somewhat contemptible axing of Brian McDermott. Adkins confirmed he had spoken to his predecessor before his appointment; "Brian told me this is a great football club, with talented players and a great spirit."

The problem for the new manager, though, is that the talent in question is in short supply. Midfielder Jimmy Kébé admitted just before Christmas that Reading were "a good Championship team trying to compete in the Premier League" - it's hard to disagree, which made the dismissal of McDermott all the more callous. Yes, his reign ended on the back of

## Adkins looks to realise his "dream"



Former Saints boss Nigel Adkins takes over at Reading.

four straight league defeats, and with his side sitting deep in the relegation zone, but this was still the 51-year old who took Reading from twentieth in the second-tier to the big time during his three-and-a-bit years at the helm. The Royals would have been promoted twelve months earlier, too, before they lifted the Championship title last summer, had they have won the 2011 play-off final against Swansea - who, ironically, were

led by the man McDermott had replaced, Brendan Rodgers.

It was 20 wins from their final 26 fixtures of last season which fired Reading from tenth to Championship winners in the space of five months. While a remarkable run of form, it was a misjudgment from the board not to strengthen the team more adequately in the last two transfer windows. Zingarevich allowed McDermott to spend £6.9m in total this season. And while some looked to

be exciting additions - reported Arsenal target Adrian Mariappa joined from Watford, while Sporting Lisbon captain Daniel Carriço appeared a real coup - it wasn't enough. And the owner knew it. "We should have done more in January," Zingarevich said at Adkins' unveiling, "We weren't active enough."

Reading find themselves seven points from safety with just eight games remaining. And though

any fixture, given the Royals' position, would be daunting, Adkins' side face a thankless task in avoiding the drop. This weekend they travel to London to tackle a resurgent Arsenal side, before home clashes with Adkins' former employers Southampton and then Liverpool. There is also a tie against relegation rivals Queens Park Rangers, while champions Manchester City are still to visit the Madejski stadium.

So just how does Adkins keep Reading in the top-flight? "We will scrap. It's about the here and now," the 48-year old insisted. "We'll take it one game at a time, and the next one is Arsenal on Saturday." Adkins has already been to the Emirates stadium once this season, his newly-promoted Southampton team were hammered 6-1 in September. That humiliating loss resulted in a fourth successive defeat, and, after the opening eleven fixtures, the Saints had tasted victory just once, against struggling Aston Villa. It wouldn't have been surprising had Nicolas Cortese, Southampton's Italian chairman, relieved Adkins of his duties with the side from the south coast languishing in nineteenth-place at the time. But an upturn in form saw just two losses in the next twelve, including respectable draws against Arsenal and Chelsea. Then, incredibly, following the 2-2 at Stamford Bridge, Cortese replaced Adkins with the out of work, former Espanyol coach Mauricio Pochettino.

"I thank the fans, the players and the supporters. We were on a fantastic journey but we have to move on now," Adkins explained. He will be joined by Andy Crosby, who assisted him during his tenure at St.Marys. Zingarevich, as you would imagine, is in no doubt Adkins is the right man. "His CV speaks for itself," the Russian said, "He is progressive, he develops players and his teams play passing, attacking football." But it was the owner's next comment which drew most attention from some. "He knows how to win games at all levels." What level? Reading are playing their trade at in the 2013/14 campaign depends solely on the next eight weeks.

Adkins, a graduate from the University of Salford in 1995 with a degree in physiotherapy, takes over a squad bereft of confidence who haven't won since February 2. Though, in Adam le Fondre, Adkins may have a lifeline. The 26-year old forward has been something of a revelation this season, netting 10 times in 28 appearances. He has only started on ten occasions in the league, maybe one of the few comprehensible criticisms against McDermott. A bargain £330k signing from Rotherham United two years back, le Fondre may now get more than just cameos to get on the score sheet in games.

Adkins will need le Fondre, Crosby, belief and more if he is to realise his "dream", keeping Reading in the Premier League.

## Balkan Wrap



By Alex Milic

Croatia defeated a weak Serbia side 2-0 in a highly charged World Cup qualifier - the first between the two former foes as independent nations since the bloody 1990s war that tore apart the former Yugoslavia.

The match was played amid the frenetic cheering of some 34,000 fans of the Croatia team known as "Vatreni" or "The Fiery Ones" at the Maksimir Stadium which amongst many other things chanted 'Ubi Srbina' meaning kill a serb.

All of the supporters were either dressed in Croatia's distinctive red and white chequerboard pattern jerseys or wrapped up in Croatian flags.

The win brought Croatia closer to qualification for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil while radically reducing Serbia's chances.

Serbian fans were banned from attending the match - as are Croatia supporters for the return leg in Belgrade on September 6 - following an agreement between the two countries' football federations to curb crowd trouble.

Players and officials from both countries repeatedly tried to ease tensions, urging fans to cheer with "dignity" without resorting to insults.

However, despite police threats that they would stop the match if fans resorted to anti-Serb chanting, insults could have been heard at the start of the match as well as occasionally on the streets and in trams ahead of



Croatia were too strong against a weak Serbia side

the tie.

The insults, including chants "Kill a Serb!", "stopped shortly after the first goal scored in the 23rd minute by Mario Mandzukic.

No major incidents were reported during the high-risk fixture that was held amid tight security measures

Serbia started well but Croatia's Mario Mandzukic put the home side ahead in the 23rd minute after a mistake by Serbian defender Aleksandar Kolarov.

Fourteen minutes later Ivica Olic scored the second goal after being set up by captain Darijo Srna.

After the break Serbia were playing more decisively, mustering a few chances, but Stipe Pletikosa's good defensive work kept them at bay.

After the match celebrations continued at the square as well as throughout the capital and in the rest of the country.

"We are half way to Brazil. I already

forgot this match ... We are facing another one in three days ... We have to prove this superiority, stability, discipline," Croatia coach Igor Stimac told national television.

Stimac acknowledged he knew this game would be a "hard" one.

"Serbia are an exceptional opponent that are developing. They have young, talented players who will mature."

His Serbian counterpart Sinisa Mihajlovic said that his players lost to a "better and a more experienced team". Croatia went on to overcome Wales in Swansea after Gareth Bale had put the home side in front but late goals from Dejan Lovren and Eduardo ended Welsh hopes for Brazil and put Croatia one step further to the finals in 2014.

Serbia bounced back and overcame Scotland in front of 5000 fans in Novi

Sad with Benfica bound Filip Djuricic scoring both of the home sides goals.

Montenegro remained two points ahead of England on top of Group H after former Red Star striker Dejan Damjanovic's goal in the 76th minute gave Montenegro a valuable point even though It could have been all three but England managed to salvage a point in Podgorica. Each team has four qualifiers left, including what could be a key rematch Oct. 13 at Wembley.

Montenegro captain Mirko Vucinic says, "This is a great result for us, that gives us a good chance to qualify for the World Cup."

The draw will be a setback for England coach Roy Hodgson, who had made several changes from the team that thrashed San Marino 8-0 on Friday - bringing in Steven Gerrard for his 102nd cap, along with fel-



Montenegro celebrate

low midfielders Michael Carrick and James Milner plus Ashley Cole and Danny Welbeck.

England started well, taking the lead in the sixth minute when Wayne Rooney headed in a corner from Gerrard after being left unmarked. It dominated the first half, with Rooney missing a chance to double the score in the 27th when he failed to convert Milner's pass across the face of the goal.

But with nothing to lose, Montenegro started attacking right from the start of the second half and outplayed its opponents.

"I told my players at halftime that they have nothing to fear from the England team," Montenegro coach Branko Brnovic said. "I told them they are not better than us. And, they delivered."

Under pressure, the England players went from retaining the ball to being completely overrun and failing

to create any real attacking threat.

The first chance for Montenegro came in the 47th minute when Stevan Jovetic's header narrowly missed the target. Ten minutes later the Fiorentina midfielder tried to lob England goalkeeper Joe Hart with a long-range effort on the break.

Vucinic unleashed a shot in the 72nd that fizzed past the post, and minutes later Hart needed to make a diving save to deflect Jovetic's drive. But there was nothing he could do with Damjanovic's shot, taken from close range after a melee in a packed England goalmouth.

England pushed forward in hopes of getting the winner, and Montenegro goalkeeper Mladen Bozovic made a nice save on a free kick by Gerrard in the closing stages.

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Tours To Italy





EPL  
Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

## England's tough task for WC14

Two games in four days: four points in those two games. England are sitting pretty when it comes to qualifying for the World Cup, but they are no means guaranteed their place in Brazil.

Currently, the Three Lions are on 12 points, two points behind Montenegro, who are sitting on 14 points. If things are to stay the same, Montenegro will go straight to the World Cup, while England will have to settle for a play-off round.

That is no guaranteed however, with four games still to play, especially considering that England will host Montenegro at home in October later this year, that positions will stay the same. With third and fourth place, Poland the Ukraine four points behind, and will need a massive turnaround in fortunes, England are every much in control of their own destiny.

Three of their last four games are at home; with England boss Roy Hodgson was adamant that this run-in could play every well into his team's hands.

"We've got three of our last four games at home and the contenders have got to come to us, so we'll see how we go. The fact is it's still in our hands. We play three of the last four games at home."

Their home has been excellent and surely they will claim the points when playing in the home fortress of Wembley, but it's their impressive away record that has



Wayne Rooney comes to England's rescue against Montenegro

helped them during the qualification phase

Last Saturday, England travelled and smashed San Marino 8-0, with seven different scorers on the team. That result was expected (maybe not the margin itself, but the three points were), but the game that everyone wanted to win was against Montenegro. Win that and they would be first and in control of the group.

England were up 1-0 against Montenegro, when Wayne Rooney scored in the sixth minute – but should have added to their lead in the first half, considering their domination in the middle of the park.

But typical England, they were outgunned and outplayed in the second period by the Montenegrins, who deservedly earned a point through a close-range strike from Dejan Damjanovic.

England boss, Roy Hodgson wasn't too disappointed coming away with a point, considering the onslaught that his team endured.

"I thought our first half was very good but we didn't start the second half as well as we would have liked to and that gave them some encouragement," he told ITV.

"I thought we hung on well and we


finished well. They had a good spell in the second half and robbed us of a victory but all things considered we shouldn't be too disappointed with a draw here."

But typical England, they were outgunned and outplayed in the second period by the Montenegrins, who deservedly earned a point through a close-range strike from Dejan Damjanovic.

However many fans and critics see the result as two dropped points for the Three Lions. The second half display saw them lose control of the game and pretty much blowing a chance to jump in first place.

But that can hardly be a concern; national teams drop points in surprising games all the time. Just look at last weekend's result between Spain and Finland – who thought the World Champions would draw 1-1 with the minnows? England are still in a very good position to make it to Brazil.

ENGLAND EPL



Last 5 games  
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Manchester United	29	24	2	3	69	31	+38	74	W W W W W
2 Manchester City	29	17	8	4	51	26	+25	59	L W W L D
3 Chelsea	29	16	7	6	58	30	+28	55	W W L W L
4 Tottenham Hotspur	30	16	6	8	51	37	+14	54	L L W W W
5 Arsenal	29	14	8	7	55	32	+23	50	W L W W W
6 Everton	29	12	12	5	46	35	+11	48	W W L L D
7 Liverpool	30	12	9	9	57	39	+18	45	L W W W L
8 West Bromwich ...	30	13	5	12	40	38	+2	44	D W L W W
9 Swansea City	30	10	10	10	40	38	+2	40	L L W L W
10 Fulham	29	9	9	11	40	44	-4	36	W D W D L
11 Stoke City	30	7	13	10	27	35	-8	34	D L L L W
12 Norwich City	30	7	13	10	28	46	-18	34	D D L W D
13 Newcastle United	30	9	6	15	41	52	-11	33	L W L W L
14 West Ham United	29	9	6	14	32	43	-11	33	L W L L W
15 Sunderland	30	7	10	13	33	42	-9	31	D L D L L
16 Southampton	30	7	10	13	42	52	-10	31	W D L L W
17 Aston Villa	30	7	9	14	31	56	-25	30	W W L L W
18 Wigan Athletic	29	7	6	16	35	56	-21	27	W L W L D
19 Reading	30	5	8	17	35	57	-22	23	L L L L L
20 Queens Park Ra...	30	4	11	15	26	48	-22	23	L W W L L

It's just that destiny is in their hands, that's all.

### EPL Preview.

Well, the international break is over, meaning we're back to watching the Premier League this weekend. And it's getting quite hectic now, with only eight rounds left in the season.

The title race is all but over. Even Sir Alex Ferguson has finally admitted it is over, pointing out that he is shocked by the lead his Manchester United team have over the chasing pack.

"With Manchester City coming on the scene in the last couple of years, and Chelsea and Arsenal and Tottenham, you have teams vying for that top-four position," Ferguson told the Sirius XM radio station.

"I expected it to be really tight. The first point was that, after last season, we wanted to make sure we didn't lose it on goal difference, and that has improved markedly. But I never thought we would be 15 points clear at this stage of the season."

United are also hunting the Double and have a tough couple of days ahead of them. On Saturday they travel to face struggling Sunder-

land before taking on Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in a replay of the FA Cup quarterfinals.

Elsewhere in the Premier League, the battle for the Champions League places is building momentum. Weeks ago, it looked like Tottenham was secured in taking out one of the places. Yet, two consecutive losses has meant that Andre Villas-Boas' side has now only four points ahead of fifth place Arsenal, but having played a game more.

Tottenham are travelling to the Liberty Stadium to take on Swansea in a bid to end their end-of-season-collapse that they have endured over the past couple of years – or better known to supporters as "Spurs it up".

Spurs' recent hot form was attributed to the pulsating form of Gareth Bale. However, there was a scare for the Welshman, with reports that he got injured during the international break while playing for Wales.

Chris Coleman, Wales' manager said that he wouldn't risk the Spurs star if he weren't full fit. He ended up playing for Wales against Croatia. How they will affect his body remains to be seen, but it seems lately, that Bale is growing tired playing games every three days.

Latest Results	Next Match
Everton 2 - 0 Man City	Sunderland v Man Utd
Aston Villa 3 - 2 QPR	Arsenal v Reading
Southampton 3 - 1 Liverpool	Man City v Newcastle Utd
Stoke City 0 - 0 WBA	Southampton v Chelsea
Swansea City 0 - 2 Arsenal	Swansea City v Tottenham
Man Utd 1 - 0 Reading	West Ham v WBA
Sunderland 1 - 1 Norwich City	Wigan v Norwich City
Tottenham 0 - 1 Fulham	Everton v Stoke City
Chelsea 2 - 0 West Ham	Aston Villa v Liverpool
Wigan 2 - 1 Newcastle Utd	Fulham v QPR

One To Watch This Weekend...  
Will Wigan's amazing escape continue? Roberto Martinez has always done things his way and could pull off another major escape from relegation. They take on Norwich, who are in a bit of a free-fall at the moment.

Arsenal on the other hand will be osting Reading, who are dead in the relegation battle – but have finally announced their new manager following the sack of Brian McDermott.

Their replacement: former Southampton boss Nigel Atkins, two months after he was sacked by the Saints board. Atkins was thrilled to be back in the seat for a Premier League team.

"I'm really proud and privileged to be the Reading manager now and yes we've got the belief and the desire to take one game at a time and make sure this football club remains in the Premier League. That is what I've got to do" said Adkins, at his unveiling as the club's new manager on Tuesday morning.

"It's a good football club. We've got to remain in the Premier League. We've got the ability here and I'm looking forward to it, I'm excited about the prospect of being here."

Atkins has a tough task ahead of him. Reading are second last, seven points off safety. Starting with a win against Arsenal, Atkins could actually pull off a massive coup.

Andrew Bishara runs the popular football website <http://thetrequartista.com>

# Ferdinand and England in chaos

London Eye



By Eddie Gray

Rio Ferdinand is currently the best English centre back without doubt.

Even at the age of 34 and heading towards the final stages of his career, the Manchester United man has undergone a renaissance in form this past year and has rediscovered his best performances in a red shirt, putting to shame some of his younger counterparts.

Although not the quick and agile defender he once was, Ferdinand has moulded and adapted his game, with a greater reliance being placed on his ability to read the game, something which has proved to be exceptional.

These improvements have benefited a leaky United back four massively and the clamour for the former Leeds and West Ham player to be called up to the England squad, from which he was unceremoniously dropped previously, was at an all time high.

When the pressure eventually told and he was included by manager Roy Hodgson for the crucial World Cup qualifiers against San Marino and Montenegro it was an enormous surprise when Ferdinand opted out, citing his recovery procedure between games as impossible to maintain if he were to go away with his country.

This decision left Hodgson red faced as he had placed his faith in the man he had earlier in his ten-



England's Rio Ferdinand

ure dropped for 'footballing reasons', with the centre backs decision leaving his national manager in the lurch, especially with a lack of defenders available to him.

So with Ferdinand in and then out of the squad in a matter of days it left many wondering how the situation, which had created lots of confusion, had come around and then, what made fans even more sceptical and curious, was his decision to go and provide punditry for a TV station in Qatar.

When Ferdinand was left out by England for the first time under Hodgson it was rumoured he had been done so because of the inclusion in the team of John Terry. At

the time, both Chelsea's and Manchester United's defenders had their relationship tested by the race allegations against Terry by Anton Ferdinand, Rio's brother.

The outcome of the trial left Hodgson with the decision over who to select, as it seemed the pair would not be able to co-exist and therefore have a detrimental effect on the spirit of the squad, something that was so important to the previous West Brom manager.

In the end it was Terry who was preferred, prior to his FA charge (although he was cleared in the English courts) which led to the de-selection of Ferdinand.

At the time, although highly con-

troversial, it could have been far worse had the latter been in form and regularly fit, but he wasn't, which made the choice to drop him generally more accepted.

However, after Terry was suspended by the FA for the Anton Ferdinand saga it coincided with a return to form for the other Ferdinand, who started to press his claim for a return to the national squad with excellent club displays, but more importantly proved he was able to compete regularly at the very top with his fitness issues, back, groin and calf injuries, seemingly behind him.

Yet he didn't return immediately, even with all the potential hurdles removed, and that led

many to presume his international career was over. But after delivering numerous performances of the highest quality and constantly reminding the world he would always be available for his country Ferdinand was finally called back into the squad for the March qualifiers.

When the pressure eventually told and he was included by manager Roy Hodgson for the crucial World Cup qualifiers against San Marino and Montenegro it was an enormous surprise when Ferdinand opted out, citing his recovery procedure between games as impossible to maintain if he were to go away with his country.

It was then, and only then, that the £30 million defender decided, once announced in the squad, he couldn't maintain his fitness regime, which has seen his injury troubles disappear, whilst away with his country.

This sparked mass discussion about the timing of the decision, with a huge amount of people questioning why he had decided to withdraw from the squad when he knew well in advance of his selection. The strange nature of the event left many fans feeling let down and they voiced their opinion heavily against San Marino towards Ferdinand.

What remains to be seen is if

the Manchester United man will return to the squad in the future when his programme isn't as intense, or whether Hodgson feels he can trust his player not to do the same thing again.

After all, in tournament football the schedule of matches and training will be far closer together and if Ferdinand has to pull out of two games in six days then it is highly questionable whether his body will be able to cope with the compact nature of the World Cup.

Then again, there is the argument that what Ferdinand chose to do was not to do with his fitness and more to do with his previous mistreatment by England. This was further supported by his decision to take a 15 hour flight to provided analysis in Qatar on the game he was supposed to feature in. Now, for a man with historic injury concerns, in particular with his back, is a lengthy trip really what the physio's at his club would have recommended?

Whatever happens with this situation in the future it will be intriguing because an England side without Rio Ferdinand is considerably weaker if the player decides to retire. But it will be equally interesting to see whether Hodgson decides enough is enough with Ferdinand after his public embarrassment.

And if Ferdinand is never to wear the white of his country again it will be a massive shame because by many he will be remembered for turning down the opportunity to represent England, rather than all the exceptional years he had for his nation when he was one the best centre backs in the world, let alone in England.





# Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

## Super Mario on fire

Mario Balotelli was in fine form as Italy played out an entertaining draw with Brazil, before defeating Malta in World Cup qualifying. Serie A resumes this weekend with a key relegation showdown.

The four-time World Cup winners versus the five-time champions. It may only have been a friendly, but given the history behind the fixture and with the Confederations Cup around the corner, neither Italy nor Brazil were in a harmonious mood.

The Azzurri had failed to claim victory over Brazil in all competitions since their famous 1982 World Cup triumph in Spain. Since then, the South Americans had defeated Italy in the 1994 World Cup Final and more recently won two matches in 2009, one a friendly and the other at that year's Confederations Cup. Italy's last goal versus Brazil came in 1997, during a 3-3 draw in a friendly tournament in France.

Milan's Mattia De Sciglio was handed a debut start in Geneva on Friday, while Cesare Prandelli was without Claudio Marchisio through illness. This gave Riccardo Montolivo a start, with Emanuele Giaccherini featuring



Mario Balotelli showed why he's super against Brazil and Malta

behind the strikers. Italy impressed, but by the interval were two goals down. Fred and Oscar netted for Brazil. Following some half-time tinkering Italy hit back. They moved to a trident attack, introducing Alessio Cerci for his first cap, and responded through Daniele De Rossi. Mario Balotelli then scored a sublime equaliser. Both sides had further chances but could not find a winner.

Italy's winless streak in friendlies may have extended to seven matches, but Prandelli was impressed by his side. "We played a great game. After 30 minutes we conceded two goals and it looked like the game was over. But instead we got back into it. I saw some interesting things this evening. The important thing now is to get three points against Malta."

Attention then turned to Malta and World Cup qualification. De Rossi and Pablo Osvaldo left the camp as they were suspended,

while fellow Roma player Alessandro Florenzi moved up from the U21 squad. Marchisio returned from illness. Italy had already defeated Malta this campaign, a 2-0 win last September, their fifth over their tiny island neighbours. The starting XI on Tuesday was exclusively Juventus and Milan, with the champions supplying six players to the side.

Stephan El Shaarawy was brought down inside the penalty area inside the opening 10 minutes and Balotelli stepped up to convert the spot-kick. Yet as tends to be customary with Italy, they made hard work of finishing off a minnow. Malta earned a penalty of their own shortly after, but Gianluigi Buffon saved Michael Mifsud's effort. The same player then thumped the crossbar, before a lovely Balotelli finish made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time to seal the victory.

Prandelli was thankful his goal-

ITALY

Serie A



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Juventus	29	20	5	4	57	18	+39	65	WWDWL
2 Napoli	29	16	8	5	50	26	+24	56	WLDDD
3 Milan	29	16	6	7	52	32	+20	54	WWWDW
4 Fiorentina	29	15	6	8	53	35	+18	51	WWWLW
5 Internazionale	28	14	5	9	44	37	+7	47	LWDLW
6 Lazio	29	14	5	10	37	35	+2	47	LLLWL
7 Roma	29	14	5	10	60	49	+11	47	WDWWW
8 Catania	29	13	6	10	39	36	+3	45	WLLWW
9 Udinese	29	10	11	8	38	38	+0	41	LDWDL
10 Sampdoria	28	10	6	12	35	33	+2	35	LWWDW
11 Bologna	29	10	5	14	39	38	+1	35	LWWWL
12 Parma	29	9	8	12	36	39	-3	35	LWLLL
13 Cagliari	29	9	8	12	35	48	-13	35	DWLWW
14 Chievo	29	10	5	14	31	44	-13	35	WWLLD
15 Torino	29	8	12	9	34	36	-2	35	WDLWL
16 Atalanta	29	10	5	14	30	42	-12	33	LWLLL
17 Genoa	29	6	8	15	29	45	-16	26	LLLDW
18 Siena	29	8	7	14	29	40	-11	25	DWLLW
19 Pescara	29	6	3	20	21	58	-37	21	LLLLL
20 Palermo	29	3	12	14	23	43	-20	21	LLDDD

keeper was alert in an otherwise lacklustre Azzurri performance. Buffon matched Paolo Maldini's 126 caps in Malta, 10 behind all-time appearance maker Fabio Cannavaro. "We knew there would not be spaces and were perhaps a little too slow in construction, so ran into trouble," said Prandelli. "We still maintained possession throughout the game. We lacked a bit of intensity in the finishing. Buffon marked this landmark like a captain with a great save at the crucial moment."

Italy head Group B with 13 points and are three clear of Bulgaria, with a game in hand. They next face the Czech Republic in June.

**Looking ahead: Who will survive the drop?**  
**Serie A resumes this weekend with relegation a major focus. Palermo and Pescara, both on 21 points, look certainties to drop down into Serie B. This leaves Siena – 25 points – and**

Genoa – 26 – battling to avoid the last position. They meet at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris on Sunday. Genoa have lost their last three matches and have some injury concerns to deal with, including Marco Borriello, Sebastien Frey and Juan Vargas. However, defender Daniele Portanova says they are ready for the first of 'nine cup finals.' Siena have twice won in Genoa, including last season's infamous 4-1 result which saw crowd disturbances temporarily halt play.

Inter and Juventus meet in the Derby d'Italia on Saturday. The Bianconeri have one eye on their Champions League showdown with Bayern Munich and may rest players ahead of that important clash, including Giorgio Chiellini, who left the Italy camp before the Brazil clash. The Nerazzurri are in the midst of the European chase and need three points to keep their hopes of featuring in Europe's top competition next term alive,

although Andrea Stramaccioni is dealing with a long injury list.

Milan will hope the international break has not halted their momentum as they eye second position. The Rossoneri travel to Chievo, banking on Balotelli to continue his stunning recent form. Napoli currently occupy that treasured second place on the ladder and travel to Torino, who defeated Lazio before the break. Walter Mazzari's side were victorious last time out against Atalanta and must build on that, given the Rossoneri's latest results.

Elsewhere, Lazio will be hoping the international break will bring about a change of fortunes, after one win in eight matches. They face Catania, while fellow European contenders Fiorentina and Roma are on the road at Cagliari and Palermo respectively. Atalanta host Sampdoria, as Parma look to add to Pescara's misery. Finally, Udinese square off against Bologna.



# Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

## La Roja's World Cup Defence Back on Track

Spain claimed an impressive 1-0 victory away to France at Stade de France in Paris, in UEFA'S 2014 World Cup qualifying Group I.

Barcelona's Pedro Rodriguez broke the deadlock after an hour of play, with a brilliant individual run through midfield and switch out to the left wing, Pedro continued his run into the French penalty area and converted Monreal's cross from the left wing. Prior to game, Spain were in danger of heading towards to a play-off scenario to qualify for the 2014 World Cup Finals in Brazil. After drawing at home to France and Finland, Spain trailed France by 2 points in Group I, but after the win in Paris, Spain now lead France by 1 point. Spain will now qualify for the World Cup Finals and defend their World Champion status if they win their 3 remaining matches away to Finland and at home to Belarus and Georgia later this year.

France attempted to stifle Spain's dominance of possession by crowding their defence and midfield, and did have some chances to score via Bayern Munich's Frank Ribery and



Franck Ribery of France is challenged by Sergio Busquets of Spain

Real Madrid's Raphael Varane. They were not helped however by Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba's red card in the 78th minute. Pogba was sent off for a dangerous tackle, that ultimately was a 2nd yellow card, and in reality could have been awarded as a direct red card, as his boot studs were stamped on his opponent.

Ironically, Paul Pogba said this to French media after the match; "I hardly touched him. Yes, there was contact with his foot, but he started screaming and only then did the referee pull out the second yellow card. That's football, though. There's nothing I can do to change what happened. I feel bad about it because it weakened the team when we tried to get back in the game."

The mood was obviously very different in the Spanish camp after the match, Coach Vicente Del Bosque had this to Spanish newspapers;

"People always have doubts. So this result is important. We showed conviction to stick to our style. We played very well. We were a bit messy when they had 10 men but everyone played very well.

Arbeloa was fantastic up against Ribery. The next step is the Confederations Cup and then we must prepare for the remaining World Cup qualification games. We have three games left and we have to finish the job."

The goalscorer Pedro Rordriguez was quoted on FIFA.com with the following statements; "Winning here was crucial and we knew we couldn't afford to fail. It was a very important victory and I'm really happy the way things turned out. After sprinting forward I managed to reach the ball and got a touch on it. I eventually saw that it went in, but to be honest, I'm not that sure how."

Meanwhile in the UEFA Champions

SPAIN

La Liga



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Barcelona	28	24	2	2	88	31	+57	74	W W L W W
2 Real Madrid	28	19	4	5	71	27	+44	61	W W W W W
3 Atlético Madrid	28	19	3	6	50	24	+26	60	W L D W W
4 Real Sociedad	28	13	8	7	49	35	+14	47	W W D W D
5 Valencia	28	13	6	9	41	40	+1	45	W L D D W
6 Málaga	28	12	8	8	38	27	+11	44	L D D L W
7 Real Betis	28	13	4	11	39	42	-3	43	L W D W L
8 Getafe	28	12	6	10	38	44	-6	42	W D W W W
9 Rayo Vallecano	28	13	2	13	37	46	-9	41	L W D L L
10 Sevilla	28	11	5	12	43	40	+3	38	W L W L W
11 Levante	28	10	7	11	33	41	-8	37	D D D L D
12 Real Valladolid	28	9	8	11	36	38	-2	35	L D D W L
13 Espanyol	28	9	8	11	33	37	-4	35	W L D L W
14 Athletic Club	28	9	5	14	32	51	-19	32	L W W L L
15 Granada	28	7	7	14	26	39	-13	28	D D L L L
16 Osasuna	28	7	7	14	23	32	-9	28	L L L W W
17 Real Zaragoza	28	7	5	16	25	42	-17	26	L D L D L
18 Mallorca	28	6	6	16	30	55	-25	24	L W W L L
19 Celta de Vigo	28	6	5	17	27	41	-14	23	L L L W L
20 Deportivo La C...	28	4	8	16	32	59	-27	20	W D L D L

League, Barcelona FC have just been hit with the news that their former Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has had his suspension reduced by UEFA's tribunal committee, and will now line up against his old club next week at Stade de France for Paris St Germain, in a continuation of the France v Spain theme, in the 1st leg of the UEFA Champions League Quarter-Finals.

**Mourinho fuels fresh Chelsea gossip**  
**Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho has fuelled further speculation linking him with a return to Premier League giants Chelsea.**

Mourinho has said Chelsea are 'in his heart' and he will come back to the Premier League eventually.

The 50-year-old has been the subject of intense speculation, with reports suggesting the ex-Porto, Chelsea

and Inter boss has agreed to return to Stamford Bridge next season.

Now the Portuguese has spoken of his 'big emotional connections' with the Blues.

Speaking to Sky Sports News, Mourinho said: "I cannot deny that, despite this weather, I love it here, and as I said I have a house and I have big emotional connections with Chelsea and one day I think naturally I will have to be back to English football, or to Chelsea or to another club."

"Of course, Chelsea means more to me than other clubs. Chelsea is in my heart, as Inter is, for example.

"One day I have to be back but again it is normal that I am in London. The same way I walk in my home city in Portugal, people see that as normal and this is normal, the same thing is normal when I am in London."

Given his latest comments, many will feel the return of Mourinho is

### Latest Results

Deportivo 3 - 1 Celta Vigo  
R Sociedad 4 - 1 R Valladolid  
Getafe 1 - 0 Athletic Club  
Real Madrid 5 - 2 Mallorca  
Valencia 3 - 0 Real Betis  
Málaga 0 - 2 Espanyol  
Sevilla 4 - 0 Real Zaragoza  
Osasuna 0 - 2 At Madrid  
Granada 1 - 1 Levante  
Barcelona 3 - 1 R Vallecano

### Next Match

Rayo Vallecano v Málaga  
Celta Vigo v Barcelona  
Real Zaragoza v Real Madrid  
Levante v Sevilla  
Real Valladolid v Osasuna  
Mallorca v Deportivo  
Espanyol v Real Sociedad  
Atlético Madrid v Valencia  
Athletic Club v Granada  
Real Betis v Getafe

### One To Watch This Weekend...

On March 27, France host Spain in the battle for automatic 2014 World Cup qualification in Europe's Group I. The 2 teams are level on 7 points at the top of their group, 3 points clear and 1 game in hand on 3rd placed Georgia. Late last year, "La Roja" (Spain – "The Reds") hosted "Les Bleus" (France – "The Blues") in this group, the result was a 1-1 draw, after a late equaliser from the visitors. The match can be seen live on Setanta Sports, with coverage beginning at 6.50am Wednesday morning AET time.



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## CROATIA

### 1.HNL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	24	16	4	4	49	18	+31	52	DDWWW
2 Lokomotiva	24	12	6	6	40	29	+11	42	WWLWD
3 Hajduk Split	24	11	7	6	34	19	+15	40	DLWLW
4 Rijeka	24	11	7	6	33	29	+4	40	WWDDL
5 Split	24	11	5	8	37	28	+9	38	DWDDLW
6 Slaven Koprivnica	24	9	6	9	30	35	-5	33	DLDDL
7 Osijek	24	6	12	6	21	20	+1	30	DDDDL
8 Istra 1961	24	6	9	9	22	26	-4	27	DWDDD
9 Zadar	24	6	6	12	25	43	-18	24	DLWLW
10 Cibalia	24	6	5	13	20	34	-14	23	LWLWL
11 Zagreb	24	6	4	14	21	44	-23	22	LLWWL
12 Inter Zaprešić	24	4	9	11	25	32	-7	21	DLDDL


## GERMANY

### Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	26	22	3	1	69	11	+58	69	WWWWW
2 Borussia Dortmund	26	14	7	5	60	31	+29	49	WLWDW
3 Bayer Leverkusen	26	13	6	7	46	34	+12	45	LLWDW
4 Eintracht Fran...	26	11	6	9	39	37	+2	39	LDLDL
5 Schalke 04	26	11	6	9	43	43	+0	39	LWWWD
6 Mainz 05	26	10	8	8	33	29	+4	38	DWDDD
7 Borussia M'gl'a...	26	9	11	6	35	35	+0	38	WDWDL
8 Hamburger SV	26	11	5	10	30	34	-4	38	LWDLW
9 Freiburg	26	9	9	8	33	33	+0	36	LLDDW
10 Hannover 96	26	10	4	12	47	46	+1	34	LDLWD
11 Nürnberg	26	8	10	8	29	32	-3	34	WWDDD
12 Stuttgart	26	9	5	12	28	44	-16	32	WLLDW
13 Wolfsburg	26	8	7	11	30	40	-10	31	DWLDL
14 Werder Bremen	26	6	12	12	42	51	-9	30	DDLDD
15 Fortuna Düsseldorf	26	7	8	11	32	36	-4	29	LDLWL
16 Augsburg	26	5	9	12	23	38	-15	24	WLWWL
17 Hoffenheim	26	5	5	16	30	49	-19	20	DWLLL
18 Greuther Fürth	26	2	9	15	16	42	-26	15	DLDDL

## THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Cardiff City	37	23	6	8	60	38	+22	75	WDDLW
2 Hull City	38	21	5	12	55	45	+10	68	LWLWL
3 Watford	38	20	6	12	72	48	+24	66	LLWDW
4 Crystal Palace	38	18	11	9	67	49	+18	65	LDWLW
5 Nottingham Forest	38	16	12	10	56	48	+8	60	WWWWW
6 Leicester City	38	17	8	13	59	34	+25	59	LDLDD
7 Brighton & Hov...	38	15	14	9	54	38	+16	59	WLDDW
8 Bolton Wanderers	38	14	12	12	55	50	+5	54	LWWWW
9 Middlesbrough	38	17	3	18	55	58	-3	54	LLLWL
10 Leeds United	38	14	10	14	49	54	-5	52	LDDDW
11 Burnley	38	13	10	15	50	51	-1	49	DLDWL
12 Birmingham City	38	12	13	13	50	59	-9	49	WDLWL
13 Derby County	38	12	12	14	54	54	+0	48	WLDDL
14 Millwall	36	13	8	15	46	52	-6	47	LWLWL
15 Charlton Athletic	38	12	11	15	46	52	-6	47	LWDDL
16 Huddersfield Town	38	12	11	15	40	64	-24	47	WLWLW
17 Blackpool	38	11	13	14	53	52	+1	46	LWDDD
18 Blackburn Rovers	37	11	13	13	45	48	-3	46	DLDDL
19 Ipswich Town	38	12	10	16	36	55	-19	46	WDLWD
20 Barnsley	37	12	8	17	47	58	-11	44	WWDDL
21 Sheffield Wedn...	37	12	7	18	41	52	-11	43	LWLLW
22 Peterborough U...	38	12	6	20	55	64	-9	42	WDDDW
23 Wolverhampton ...	38	11	9	18	45	54	-9	42	WLWDL
24 Bristol City	38	11	6	21	54	67	-13	39	LWDDW

## Greece

### Super League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	26	22	3	1	57	14	+43	69	WWWWW
2 Asteras Tripolis	26	16	5	5	37	16	+21	53	WWWWW
3 PAOK	26	15	7	4	41	19	+22	52	WWWWL
4 Atromitos	26	10	11	5	23	19	+4	41	LLWDD
5 PAS Giannina	26	10	8	8	24	20	+4	38	WWLDD
6 Panathinaikos	26	9	10	7	28	26	+2	35	LWWWL
7 Xanthi	26	9	7	10	24	23	+1	34	LWLWL
8 Panionios	26	10	1	15	29	36	-7	31	LWLWL
9 Levadiakos	26	8	6	12	19	31	-12	30	DLDDL
10 Platania	26	8	6	12	26	33	-7	30	WLWLW
11 AEK Athens	26	8	5	13	21	30	-9	29	WLDDL
12 OFI	26	7	7	12	27	38	-11	28	DLDDL
13 Veria	26	6	9	11	21	30	-9	27	LDWWL
14 Panthrakikos	26	7	5	14	22	31	-9	26	LLLLL
15 Aris	26	5	10	11	26	39	-13	25	LWLLW
16 Kerkyra	26	4	8	14	14	34	-20	20	LLWLW

## TURKEY

### Süper Lig



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Galatasaray	26	14	8	4	49	29	+20	50	WLDWW
2 Fenerbahçe	26	13	7	6	45	30	+15	46	WWLWW
3 Beşiktaş	26	11	10	5	52	38	+14	43	LDWWD
4 Bursaspor	26	10	10	6	40	34	+6	40	WLWLW
5 Kasımpaşa	26	11	7	8	38	28	+10	40	WDWLW
6 Gençlerbirliği	26	9	10	7	38	36	+2	37	WWDLW
7 Antalyaspor	26	11	4	11	40	39	+1	37	LLWLD
8 Eskişehirspor	26	8	12	6	40	31	+9	36	DDDDL
9 Kayserispor	26	10	6	10	34	36	-2	36	LDWWW
10 Sivasspor	26	9	5	12	28	34	-6	32	LWLLL
11 Gaziantepspor	26	8	8	10	30	42	-12	32	WDLWD
12 İstanbul BB	26	8	8	10	33	32	+1	32	WDDDD
13 Trabzonspor	26	8	7	11	28	32	-4	31	LDLWL
14 Elazığspor	26	7	10	9	23	37	-14	31	DWWWL
15 Karabükspor	26	8	6	12	31	42	-11	30	LDLLD
16 Orduspor	26	6	11	9	31	34	-3	29	LLWLD
17 Akhisar Beledi...	26	6	8	12	23	36	-13	26	WDLWL
18 Mersin İdmanyurd	26	4	9	13	27	40	-13	21	LDLLL


## HOLLAND

### Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Ajax	27	16	9	2	62	27	+35	57	WWWDW
2 PSV	27	18	2	7	83	29	+54	56	WLWLW
3 Feyenoord	27	17	5	5	53	33	+20	56	WWWWL
4 Vitesse	27	16	6	5	55	31	+24	54	WWWWL
5 Twente	27	13	8	6	43	25	+18	47	WLDDL
6 Utrecht	27	13	6	8	40	31	+9	45	LWLWL
7 ADO Den Haag	27	8	12	7	42	48	-6	36	LDWDW
8 NEC	27	10	6	11	36	45	-9	36	LLLWL
9 Heerenveen	27	9	8	10	41	48	-7	35	WWWWL
10 Heracles	27	8	10	9	52	53	-1	34	WWLLD
11 NAC Breda	27	8	7	12	32	43	-11	31	WDLWD
12 Groningen	27	8	6	13	25	43	-18	30	LDLWL
13 PEC Zwolle	27	7	8	12	30	43	-13	29	WLWLW
14 AZ	27	6	8	13	38	47	-9	26	LDLLD
15 RKC Waalwijk	27	6	8	13	27	36	-9	26	LLWLL
16 Roda JC	27	5	10	12	38	54	-16	25	LLWLD
17 VVV	27	5	7	15	28	54	-26	22	LLLWW
18 Willem II	27	3	8	16	24	59	-35	17	LWLLD

## LEAGUE ONE



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Doncaster Rovers	39	21	9	9	57	39	+18	72	WDWLW
2 Swindon Town	39	18	13	8	63	29	+34	67	DWLWD
3 AFC Bournemouth	40	19	10	11	65	51	+14	67	WWWLL
4 Brentford	38	18	13	7	51	37	+14	67	WWLLW
5 Tranmere Rovers	40	19	9	12	58	43	+15	66	WLWLW
6 Sheffield United	37	17	14	6	50	33	+17	65	LDWDW
7 Yeovil Town	39	19	7	13	62	50	+12	64	LDDDW
8 Walsall	40	16	13	11	58	53	+5	61	DDWDW
9 Leyton Orient	40	18	7	15	47	43	+4	61	DWWWD
10 Coventry City	40	17	9	14	62	49	+13	60	LWDWL
11 Notts County	40	14	16	10	52	39	+13	58	DWLDD
12 Milton Keynes Don	38	14	12	12	52	42	+10	54	LWLWD
13 Crewe Alexandra	37	15	9	13	46	49	-3	54	WDWLL
14 Crawley Town	37	14	11	12	48	50	-2	53	DDDDW
15 Stevenage	40	14	7	19	45	56	-11	49	LLWLL
16 Preston North End	38	11	14	13	46	45	+1	47	DLWWD
17 Carlisle United	39	12	10	17	48	68	-20	46	LWDLW
18 Shrewsbury Town	39	10	14	15	44	51	-7	44	DWLLL
19 Colchester United	39	12	7	20	41	60	-19	43	WDLWD
20 Oldham Athletic	37	11	6	20	38	50	-12	39	WLWLW
21 Scunthorpe United	39	10	8	21	41	64	-23	38	LLLLL
22 Portsmouth	40	8	10	22	42	62	-20	34	WDLWW
23 Bury	39	7	12	20	37	62	-25	33	LWLLL
24 Hartlepool United	40	7	12	21	33	61	-28	33	DLDDL

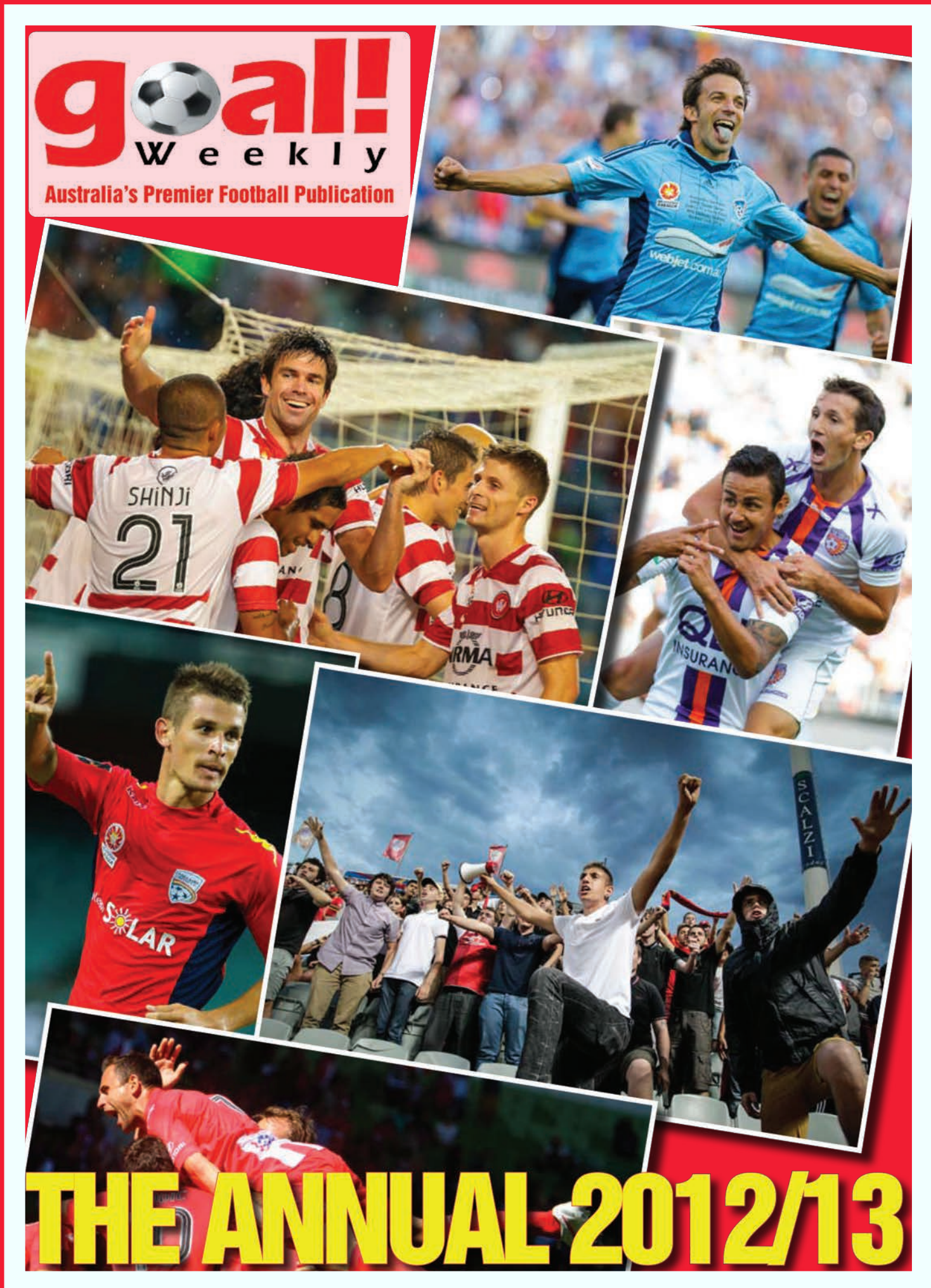
# France Ligue 1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	29	17	7	5	53	20	+33	58	DWLWL
2 Olympique Lyonnais	29	15	8	6	48	30	+18	53	LDDWW
3 Olympique Mars...	29	15	6	8	34	32	+2	51	DDWLW
4 Saint-Etienne	29	13	10	6	48	23	+25	49	DDWWD
5 Nice	29	13	9	7	41	33	+8	48	LWLWW
6 Lille	29	12	10	7	41	30	+11	46	LWWWWW
7 Montpellier	29	13	6	10	44	35	+9	45	DLWWW
8 Lorient	29	11	10	8	47	44	+3	43	WLDLW
9 Bordeaux	29	10	12	7	28	24	+4	42	DWLLL
10 Rennes	29	12	6	11	41	39	+2	42	LDLDD
11 Toulouse	29	9	11	9	33	32	+1	38	WDDDD
12 Valenciennes	29	9	9	11	37	41	-4	36	DLDDL
13 Ajaccio	29	8	11	10	30	37	-7	33	DWLLD
14 Bastia	29	8	6	14	34	53	-19	33	WLWDL
15 Evian TG	29	7	9	13	32	41	-9	30	WWDDL
16 Reims	29	7	9	13	26	35	-9	30	WLWLD
17 Brest	29	8	5	16	28	42	-14	29	LLDWD
18 Sochaux	29	7	7	15	30	46	-16	28	DLLDW
19 Troyes	29	4	12	13	34	51	-17	24	DWLDD
20 Nancy	29	5	9	15	26	47	-21	24	WLWLL



# The Goal! Weekly Annual



## AVAILABLE MAY 2013

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